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Why Neil Pearson is changing his image for television

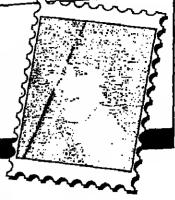
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do we need a Camila Stamps

Miles Kingston on a miracle that would upstage Diana

**COMMENT PAGE 20** 



## الكذا عن ألاصل INDEP

Thursday 19 February 1998

# Hillsborough ruling sparks families' fury

By Jason Bennetto

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ourists

FAMILIES of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster reacted with dismay last night and threatened to take legal action after the Government ruled out a new public inquiry into the tragedy. The announcement followed the publication an eight-month study that found no new evidence to justify reopening the case, in which 96 Liverpool fans died at Sheffield Wednesday's football ground in

Campaigners for the dead football supporters from the match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest condemned yesterday's report as a "whitewasb". In the streets surrounding the bome of Liverpool Football Club there were emotional scenes at the news, as fans gathered to pay their respects.

The report, however, did find new material to suggest that the football club and city council grossly overestimated the imber of spaces available in the section of the stadium where the fans were crushed and that the wrongly sized harriers were fitted. It found that 658 too many spectators could bave been allowed into one section.

Campaigners had hoped for a new inquiry and criminal prosecutions of the police officers who were criticised in the original Taylor report into the disaster.

Last July, Jack Straw. the Home Secretary, appointed Lord Justice Stuart-Smith to conduct an "independent footage was of no significance.

scrutiny" of claims that police had deliberately covered up a video of the overcrowding and new medical evidence.

But Mr Straw told the Commons yesterday that the mini inquiry had found that the "new" material did not add "anything significant" to what was already available. He therefore ruled out quashing the accidental death verdicts of the inquest or setting up an fresh inquiry and prosecuting police

The report's conclusions were a hitter blow for campaigners, but gave unequivocal backing to the earlier inquiries.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith acknowledged that while his report would come as a "disappointment" to campaigners, he could not be swayed by compassion. "That 96 people, the majority of them young should set out in highhopes and spirits on a fine spring day, and yet within a space of less than half an hour suffer crushing injuries from which they died, is nothing less tban appalling," he said.

The "new evidence" exammed included a video from a closed-circuit TV at the Leppings Lane end of the stadium where the disaster happened. It was alleged that police bad initially told the Taylor inquiry that they were taken by a faulty camera and then that they went were missing.

However, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith concluded that the video was available at the original inquiry and that the He also rejected claims that the inquest was "flawed" because a doctor said at least true victim was alive after the "cut off" point in which evidence was

considered by the coroner. But he did highlight the over-estimation of the capacity of the Leppings Lane terrace because proper measurements were not taken. This resulted in 2,900 tickets being sold for an area that should have taken 2,242. The harrier was also too low and there was a gap in the fencing, both of which "contributed to the substantially larger number of deaths in Pen 3." said the report,

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that if this had been known Lord Taylor might "have criticised Sheffield Wednesday Foothall Cluh, their consultant engineers, and those responsible for licensing the ground in more stringent term."

He also criticised the police disciplinary system which meant that the officer in charge had not been punished because he left the service. The report and Mr Straw's

response drew a furious response from the families, who said they would now be considering private prosecutions against senior officers in charge of policing on the day.

Trevor Hicks, chairman of the family support group, sald the relatives were disgusted by Labour's "cynical betrayal".

"In very simple terms there is nothing for the families," be said. We are totally devastated. There is not a shred of comfort in it at all."



Palace side: College Harris, 42, who was vesterday appounced to be the Prince of Wales's new deputy press secretary Politics, page 10 Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

## Expert report on cannabis is suppressed

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

World Health Organisation officials have suppressed an analysis by an expert panel of scientists who determined that long-term use of cannabis is less harmful than alcohol or

Details of the clampdown are published today in New Scientist magazine, and have been confirmed separately by The Independent. A member of the international panel said vesterday that be wanted the findings published: "I felt comfortable having it in our draft, and I thought it was useful information.

Had the WHO published their work, it would have given cannahis a public and scientific legitimacy that the United States and United Nations have long denied, as part of their "war against drugs". But there is growing evidence that the criminalisation is unjustified.

In a special investigation into the drug, New Scientist concludes that "politicians will just have to bite on the bullet - cannabis will have to be decriminalised". It is the most prominent scientific publication so far to provide backing for the dependent on Sunday's campaign to decriminalise cannabis use in the UK.

In an editorial, the magazine says that "despite the antidope propaganda that circulates in the US, most people are thankfully well aware that no great social disaster has befallen the Netherlands, where cannabis has been sold openly in coffee shops for years".

It adds that "only the politicians still seem irrationally terrified by the idea of any relaxation in the law: they think they can continue lumping all

drugs together".

After two years' research. the WHO panel determined that in the long-term, cannabis has fewer effects on health than either tobacco or alcohol in five out of seven categories, and carries only a marginally higher risk in the other two.

But the WHO cut that section from a report last December into the harmful effects of cannabis, following pressure from the US's National Institute on Drug Ahuse (NIDA).

One of the panel members, Billy Martin of the Medical College of Virginia, based in Richmond, Virginia, said yesterday: "I wasn't involved in those discussions, but I know WHO talked to NIDA after our draft was submitted." The NIDA has been a consistent opponent of moves to decriminalise cannabis use in the US, citing various experimental studies which seem to show harmful effects from using the drug.

Dr Martin explained that the panel wanted to provide data which would compare the effects of cannabis if it were as readily available as alcohol or tobacco. "We wanted to do a qualitative comparison, rather than a quantitative one. With society as it is, its effects are clearly no worse than those other two drugs." But that is a distorted comparison, hecause criminalisation means fewer people regularly use cannabis.

The panel investigated research on the effects of the three drugs. Topics included harm to the foetus if used by pregnant mothers, tendency to promote violent behaviour, tendency to cause dependence, withdrawal effects, and effects on brain function. In all these cases, cannabis was found to be less harmful than tobacco or

## Minister seeks new deal for working women

By Anthony Bevins and Fran Abrams

WORKING women are "to be taken more seriously" as one of the basic principles of the new welfare system, Frank Field, the minister for welfare reform, said last night. The Independent has been told

that ministers are not only considering ways in which women's private pension provision can be bolstered, but also ways in which the tax and benefits system can be used to ease the working woman's burden of childcare costs.

Mr Field said in a London lecture that Beveridge's world of \$0 years ago had been "centred on male hreadwinners and female

Under the male-orientated Beveridge Report, women and children were to benefit hut "they would do

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so, generally speaking, only as the workless members of a family headed by a working man"...

The minister said that such a system was inappropriate for a society in which male workers were about to be outnumbered by female workers - with the latest Labour Market Trends showing 11,361,000 working women, just 161,000 short. of the seasonally-adjusted male workforce figure.

"Yet the existence of what will shortly be the majority group of the working population has still to be adequately recognised in our social security system." Mr Field said. The world has changed. So, too, must welfare."

With the consultative Green Paper on Welfare Reform expected soon after the 17 March Budget, Mr Field said that one of the principles it would contain would relate to "how this male social security system can be feminised".

The Independent's childcare campaign won hacking last night from Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security. Although Ms Harman did not support our call for a childcare tax allowance of £1,800 per year, she welcomed the crusade in an article in today's pa-

"We are delighted to see The In-

dependent is taking up the issue of childcare. It is very dear to my heart," she wrote.

"To support women as they redefine their role as mothers in working for their children as well as caring for them, this government will ensure that they are hacked up with a choice of quality, affordable childcare."

However, she suggested that this would be done not through tax



**CHILDCARE** CAMPAIGN

breaks but through a range of measures already in the pipeline. These included a working families tax credit for low-paid parents, £300m for out of school childcare and an extra £100 a week for parents with two or more children under 12 who arc eligible for Family Credit.

### Brightest and the best fail even the simplest test of general knowledge

By Judith Judd Education Editor

TODAY'S students may know the food but they cannot list all the an "historic" institution. British monarchs of this century.

A study of 420 students at a leading university shows that many are poor at hasic arithmetic, grammar and general knowledge.

While 93 per cent knew Winnie the Pooh's favourite food, only a third could name all the British monarchs this century. Only 15 per cent knew how many countries were founder members of the European Economic Community and only 63 per cent knew the name of the reli-A third did not know the county in which Cheltenham is.

The survey, outlined in Education+ in The Eye section of Harriet Harman, page 8 | The Independent today and carried ranging from 60 per cent for social

versity College, Stockton, part of Durham University, found that standards of grammar and arithmetic were poor. Mr Lowe does not wish name of Winnie the Pooh's favourite to name the university hut says it is

> Only balf knew that the sentence "Whose left that book behind?" was incorrect and only just over half were able to punctuate correctly the sentence: "questionnaires can be fun time is essential for satisfactory completion".

In arithmetic, two-thirds failed to multiply correctly a quarter by a quarter and more than half gave the

wrong answer to the sum  $24 - 2 \times 6$ . Natural scientists did worse than their peers in bumanities at literagion whose followers worship Allah. cy hut were not always better at nu-

Mr Lowe found that attendance rates at classes at universities in the North-East were "alarmingly low" Features, page 18 out by Rob Lowe, a lecturer at Uni-science and humanities classes to 80

per cent for natural sciences. He questions whether standards are high enough. "Ninety per cent of students who complete their courses prohably get a degree of some sort," he said. "If many are able to do so on a foundation of 60 per cent attendance, and, anecdotally, with minimal reading, are the demands that lecturers impose stringent enough? Alternatively, why is 40 per cent of teaching input redundant to successful achievement of a degree?"

Mr Lowe argues that there should be a new hierarchy of universities to take account of the huge variety of students brought into the system through a decade of ex-



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Because life's complicated enough.

## Old Order mourns Enoch Powell

How history will judge him no one knows. Paul Vallely hears memories of a flawed genius

PRODIGIOUS quantities of brown snuff were smeared over the nose and upper lip of the elderly character with the bowler hat in one hand and the brolly in the other. He wore a morning suit which had seen better days. Why he picked on me was not clear. I had just left St Margaret's Church after the funeral of Enoch Powell and was standing quietly between the entrance and the side door of Westminster Abbey.

"Scourge of our times, that lot," he said, waving wildly at the phalanx of press photographers who stood on the green, safely behind the harrier erected by the Ahhey authorities. "They have a role to fulfil," I countered stiffly, "Pity they don't do it with more decorum," he fulminated and stormed off.

Quite how they had transgressed was unclear. Perhaps simply by being there. What antique ctiquette he was measuring them against can only be guessed at.

There had been odd touches of a vanished order all round the church - an old man in a wing-collar who looked like a contemporary of Lloyd George. America) but a plumper-faced a peculiar young man with John Major emerged from the greased hack hair in a leather iacket and an ancient gent with a hristling moustache and a row of medals so long it looked as if he might over-balance. Oth-



Service of simple dignity: Canon Donald Gray, Rector of St Margaret's Westminster, with Enoch PowelPs widow, Pamela, and his daughters Jennifer and (right) Susan after the funeral yesterday morning

ken cheeks, leather-spotted skin, half-moons and horn-rims. halding pates, stiff movements, walking sticks - the old order in its ancient dignity.

The Disappeared of the previous political era were in evidence. Lady Thatcher was her No 3, Tony Worthington. church alongside his predecessor's consort, Sir Denis, followed by Lord Parkinson, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, Michael Portillo, William Waldegrave,

and Sir John Nott. There was. noticeably, no William Hague. And the Government, who should have been represented by the Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam (Mr Powell's last seat was in Co Down) sent only missing (on a lecture tour in The only other Labour figure was Tony Benn.

The funeral service was one of simple dignity, even if it was shot through with little ironies. The cortege bearing the unionflag clad coffm of the great traditionalist was led by, of all erwise it was all heavy jowls, bro- Nicholas Budgen, Alan Clark things, a coped woman cleric life. The choir, in red cassocks Orthodox Byzantine-rite. There

who carried a cross, bearing the image of Christ Triumphant. The reading from Ecclesiastes by Mr Powell's daughter, Susan Day, began "To Every Thing there is a Season" and then included "a time to keep silence" -advice the politician singularly failed to heed in his lifetime. And one of the hymns was by Cardinal Newman, who unlike Powell saw change as growth

The obsequies reflected the

which he was not afraid to em-

and white surplices, preceded the coffin at its entrance with Sentences of high Anglican austerity by William Croft followed by a dramatic extract from Henry Purcell's Music for the Funeral of Queen Many. The reading, from John's Gospel. was an oddly-edited extract, as befits the scholarship of a man who in his retirement re-translated Matthew's Gospel and concluded that the Crucifixion never happened. There was a kontakion, a liturgical refraio catholicity of Enoch Poweli's unorthodoxly inserted from the

was a hymn which reflected "I loved the garish day, and, in spite of fears, pride ruled my will" and a reading of "Loveliest of trees", from the A E Housman poem A Shropshire Lad which, even into his Eighties. Enoch Powell could not recite on radio without hreaking into tears. After the Nunc Dimias in a setting by Herbert Howells and an organ sonata by Elgar, the coffin was taken to Warwick to be buried in the cemetery of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in which the politician had enlisted as a private in 1939 and concluded as a brigadier in Army Intelli-

His was, of course, a glittering talent which faced its real test in the world of politics. Powell was, said Lord Biffen in the funeral address, "a romantic hut essentially isolated politician ignoring the skills of compromise essential for high office." That was before 1968 when Powell concluded that the prospective size and concentration of New Commonwealth immigration would lead to unacceptable tensions and violence

in British society. "The speech," said Lord Biffen with considerable understatement, "had a profound national impact". Of the ontcry which ensued, Biffen added only that the dead man's nationalism "was not an emotion of nostalgia or romanticism and certainly did not bear the stamp of racial superiority or xenophobia". It was simply that he believed that Britain, having lost an Empire, should now champion the nation as the best focus for loyalty and authority.

Perhaps. But history may offer a less charitable verdict. How the church lost its way over Powell, page 21

### TOMORROW

THE EYE 28 PAGES OF FILM **AND MUSIC** 

THE BUTCHER BOY 'The picture begins at the point of derangement and keeps soaring'-Ryan Gilbey on the new films



**SPACE PLUS** CATATONIA: What a double act

### WEATHER

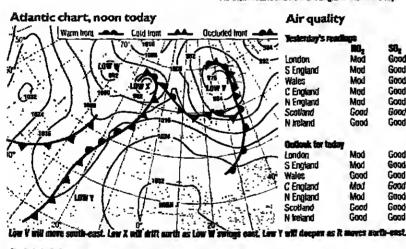


Noon today Fog patches in the lar east and south-east of England will some the interest each south reason or administration will break and most of eastern England will have surnly spetts. In the west and across Weles, it will be cloudier with some light drizzle in places and log towards coasts and over hills. South-west Scotland and Northern treland are more likely to have some drizzle or rain, turning heavier

Outlook for the next few days On Friday rain will scread across Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales into the north and west of England. The south-east should stay dry but rain will move

over the north and morth-west of Scotland. The east

through overnight, leaving a blustery, showery and much cooler day across the country on Saturday. The showers will tall as snow over the hills in Scotland. Any showers will be very isolated on Sunday but it will remain cooler with rain moving into Scotland, Northern tretand and northern England fater in the day.



British Isles weather most recent available figure a most local large

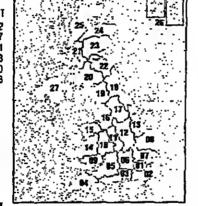
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### MICHAEL **HANLON** WEATHER WISE

NEXT TIME you look out of back details of pressure, temthe window, see the rain pelting down and decide to stay in bed for the day, think how much worse it could be if you were unlucky enough to live anywhere else except on our own dear planet. For, however heastly the weather gets here, there is nothing Earth can throw at us which compares in nastiness with the conditions found on the other planets. In fact, there is nowhere else in our solar system where you could lay out a sheet and have a pleasant afternoon picnic without being boiled, frozen, evaporated,

crushed or suffocated. Our nearest planetary neighbour, Venus, has the most appalling weather. The surface glows a dull 400C red, the result of a runaway greenhouse effect. The air, more or less

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pure carbon dioxide, is so soupy that a (well insulated) human being could easily fly with the aid of strapped-on wings.

People used to think Mars was criss-crossed by canals, but any canal-builders on the Red Planet would need to be hardy souls. The Pathfinder lander which arrived on the Martian perature and wind speed, Mars is cold. The maximum temperature recorded was around -7C. the minimum a perishing -78C.

And visitors would need to pack more than a set of long johns. The surface pressure. around 6.5 millibars, is less than 1 per cent of that on the Earth. Water at these pressures simply boils into vapour, and, as our bodies are mostly made of water, an unpressurised astronaut would die in agony as his hlood foamed in his veins.

As for Juniter and Saturn. these planets are composed almost entirely of hydrogen and methane gas - they are almost made of weather. Jupiter's speciality is hurricanes, with wind speeds of 600mph and more. Some of these storms, like that which shows as the Great Red

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**Ohituaries** Business

Unit Trusts

Crosswords

TV & radio

Sport

Spot, are as big as the Earth and last for centuries.

Most of the moons in the solar system are too small to have atmospheres, and hence have no weather. But Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, has a thick cloudy atmosphere, thicker in fact, than that of the Earth, Surface pressures are a survivable 1,500 millibars, but the temperature is a rather less pleasant -170C. You would need oxygen tanks too, as the air near the surface is almost pure molecular nitrogen. Titan might be the only place in the solar system other than the Earth which experiences rain, though on Titan the rain would consist of liquified ethane, perhaps falling into ethanc oceans and rivers.

The outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, are all extremely cold, orbiting hillions of kilometres from the Sun. Pluto is a frozen airless world, hlue Neptune and green Uranus are gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn, with howling methane hurricanes and unimaginable pressures deep below the visible cloud tops. Like everywhere except our own hlue haven. the long-range forecast for these planets is uninhabitable.



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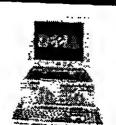
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# 5,000 hip operations may have to be repeated

Health Editor

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the

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UP TO 5,000 patients who have undergone hip replacement surgery are to be recalled and may have 10 have repeal operations after prohlems emerged with their articifial

The Medical Devices Agency issued a hazard warning last night about the Capital hip made by the 3M company. Launched in 1991, it is one of more than 40 artifical hips on the market.

The warning will mean many, mostly elderly, patients will have to undergo complex revision surgery. which is riskier than the original hip replacement operation, imposing a major burden on the NHS. Each revision operation costs over £5,000 and if all 5,000 patients had repear surgery it would account for half the entire workload of repeat hip replacements undertaken by the NHS

Richard Villar, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Addenbrooke's, hospital, Cambridge, said; This is a major surgical drama. It will tie a lot of surgeons down for a long time. Waiting lists will increase enormously and they are long enough as it is."

It was unclear last night what the nature of the problem with the device is or whether all, or only some, of the patients fitted with it will require repeat operations.

It appears that the device works eroding healthy bone which causes fractures and redusces the success rate of further hip replacement operations.

The Department of Health called a press briefing for 9.30am this morning and the company has

set up a helpline for patients. More than 46,000 hip replacements are carried out each year on patients who have difficulty walk-

ing because of arthritis. The replacement hip consists of is 01509 613038

a metal hall and shaft which is fitted into the thighbone and a socket made of plastic or metal into which the ball is inserted to form a

new joins.

More than 90 per cent of replacement hips are expected to last 15 years, but failure rates vary widely. The most frequent cause of failure is loosening of the joint as

a result of wear and lear. The Capital hip was based on the famous Charnley design, the original hip replacement, invented in the 1960s which, has never been bet-

Concerns were raised about the Capital hip last year when surgeons from Harlow Wood Orthopaedic Hospital, Nottingham, published a paper in the British Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery which revealed that up to 26 per cent of patients experienced an early failure of the implant. On average they lasted just over two years.

Different materials, including dtanium and ceramics, have been tried in the devices to overcome such problems.

The materials and quality of manufacture are controlled by the Medical Devices Agency but the devices are not required to undergo long-term clinical trials before being introduced. Some orthopaedic surgeons believe performance tests should be carried out on new hip designs before allowing them onto the market.

In Sweden there is national register of hip replacement operations which allows problems with a new device or material to be spotted early but there is no similar register in Britain.

When a new cement called Boneloc was discovered to have a high failure rate in Sweden it had been used on only 15 patients but in Britain it had already been used on 1,800 patients.

The Capital hip helpline number



Setting a bad example: Helena Bonham Carter in the recent hit film The Wings of the Dove

## Health watchdog fumes as stars fail to stub out

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Smouldering its way through dozens of films, the cigarette has been seen as a tradinonal accompaniment to the film stars of the 1940s and 1950s.

But tobacco firms were yesterday accused of targeting the film industry in an attempt to get round a fu-ture advertising ban. The Health Education Authority has raised the concerns after finding the number of smoking scenes in hit films increased four-fold between 1990 and 1995.

New research by the HEA found that the number of smoking scenes had risen dramatically since the beginning of the decade. In 1997, 40 per cent of the top 10 box-office hits had more than 10 smoking scenes compared with 10 per cent in 1990 films.

The study also found that 80 per cent of the top 10 films made in 1990 and 1995 - among them the blockbusters Apollo 13 and Total Recall contained some smoking scenes. There were six times as many cigarette hrand names featured in films made two years ago than in 1990 with one brand in particular featuring heavily.

Those particularly "guilty" included Bruce Willis in the action thriller Die Hard with a Vengeance, Christian Slater in Interview with a Vampire and Kurt Russell in Stargate. In Space Jam, the male baddie is rarely seen without a cigar and the smoking in Muriel's Wedding says the HEA seems to be linked to the primary characters' desire to be different and shed their inhibitions.

In 1990, about 20 per cent of leading characters were seen smoking but this rose to 48 per cent by 1995. The authors of the report found that smoking was increasingly being used to portray "had guys" or characters generally seen as unsympathetic. Smoking was also more likely to be featured in pressured or stressful situations rather than sexy scenes.

The HEA wants the film industry to reconsider how smoking is portrayed after concluding that young people are influenced by images of stars smoking, including Robert de Niro and Kevin Costner, and often copy the habits of their icons. Figures produced by the HEA



Sign of the times: Marlene Dietrich, when smoking was sexy

show that 16-24 year-olds in England are the only group where smoking has increased over recent years. Of the 6 million people in this age group, approximately 1.85 million are regular smokers.

There are approximately 121,000 deaths every year in the UK attributed to smoking, and the authority says the vast majority of smokers would like to give up their habit.

There were also six times as many cigarette brand names featured in 1995 films. Keith Bolling, the Health Education Authority expert who researched the report, said: "The overwhelming majority of brands featured in films were Marlboro. It is perhaps not surprising that when the opportunities for advertising cigarettes are becoming fewer for tobacco companies, that they are looking for other ways of keeping cigarettes in the public eye."

Kenneth MacKinnon, professor of film studies at the University of North London, who co-wrote the report, said smoking was now being used as an image of rehellion. "Smoking can now be portrayed as quite virtuous today. It is a way of challenging the establishment view, it is a way of fighting what is called health fascism. That is a notion which young people can latch on to."

John Carlisle, executive director of the Tohacco Manufacturers Association, said the HEA claims were "complete rubbish". And he added: "The HEA has absolutely no evidence to back up this claim, they are trying the appoint themselves as a new type of health censor."

## lesco store throwing away £3,500 of food every week

HUGE amounts of quality food which could be used to feed the homeless is being thrown away by supermarkets every week.

An episode of BBC2's fly-on-the-wall documentary Superstore, filmed at Tesco's Banbury hranch, to be screened next month, will reveal for the first time that £3,500 of produce is binned every week at a single store.

Until now the exact levels of edible food being wasted has been difficult to quantify, as the big supermarkets are reluctant to give figures. Despite calls from homeless charities and food organisations, only a tiny amount of waste food is being passed on to charity.

Jacqui Webster of the National Food Alliance, said: "Wastage is a serious problem and it is something that needs to be addressed. The amount that is being thrown away is incredible."

The supermarkers are wary of giving food directly to the homeless, preferring to work with specialist distribution charities who will ensure substandard food is not passed on. But the number of charities capable of doing this is small, and food at the majority of supermarket branches which are not near a distribution centre is being destroyed.

An estimated £6.7m worth of food is being thrown away every week by supermarkets - enough to feed 370,575 homeless

Captain Bill Cochrane of the Salvation Army said: "There is enormous scope there for us passing on good quality food. We have a network of more than a thousand Salvation Army centres and all of them will be near a supermarket.

"I can understand their anxiety about

making sure the food is safe but those are anxieties we share. The last thing we would do is put anyone at risk."

Marks and Spencer is the only supermarket where all edible waste food is passed on to charity.

Of the other supermarkets, just 100 Tescos out of 588 hranches participate in Provision, a distribution charity set up by the Institute of Grocery Distribution. Tesco staff have orders to throw out all their waste fresh food.

Out of 389 Sainsbury branches, 10 supply the FairShare scheme run by the bomeless charity Crisis, which specialises in fresh food,



Caught on camera: BBC television film of store reveals level of waste

Other food is donated to Provision through the supermarket's head office.

Of Waitrose's 117 branches, 20 stores supply goods to Provision. This is being in- as we're aware it works very well." creased to 48 branches next month.

Safeway is a member of Provision and . also gives some waste food to zoos. A spokeswoman could oot say how much food is being hinned hut said the company was improving waste management.

All the supermarkets said they were committed to expanding their level of involvement in distributing waste food to charity. Until they do, millions of pounds worth of good quality food will continue to end up in land fill sites and incineration centres every week.

As supermarkets are especially wary of giving away fresh produce for fear of food poisoning, almost all is currently being destroyed. Only two charity centres in the whole of the country, one of which is supplied by Sainshury, cater for the distribution of fresh food.

Stephen Bromberg, spokesperson for Crisis, which runs FairShare, said: "We know that three in five homeless people do not have fresh food in their diet at all so this is the food we really need to give

"And there is no reason why supermarkets shouldn't give fresh food. We can stop safety being a problem. We guarantee we can get food out of the supermarket and to homeless centres by the following lunch time."

Maya Van Eerde, spokespersnn for Marks and Spencer, said individual branch managers made arrangements with local charities who signed a contract taking on responsibility for food safety.

She said: "We haven't had any problems and we've been doing this for a long time. The charities are so grateful to receive the food they stick to the contract and as far

As well as finding ways to dispose of waste food, supermarkets are attempting to cut down on wastage, turning to sophisticated schemes to regulate the supply

Other initiatives include reducing food as it approaches its sell by date or putting it in staff canteens.

Martin Bowden, who has been seconded to Crisis by Sainsbury, said the supermarket hoped eventually to pass all its safe waste food, including fresh produce, on to the

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## Strides in jean technology help catch thief

By Andrew Buncombe

IN THE world of forensic science, trapping criminals by identifying their DNA and their individual genes is old hat. At least it is in Spokane, Washington Stale, where local law enforcers are tracking down offenders by their individual jeans.

In a case that could see wised-up criminals ditching their denims for something else, the FBI caught a bank robber after identifying his jeans on a security video.

The man was caught on film in April

he was wearing a mask to cover his face, but part of his trousers were showing on

the video footage. When the film was enlarged the bureau's forensic scientist, Richard Vorder Bruegge, noticed worn patches on the jeans.

Police had several suspects for the robbery and on closer inspection it was noticed that one was wearing a pair of jeans with more than 24 features that matched the "bar

code" of the jeans on the film. The pattern on the jeans is caused by

1996. Like any bank robber worth his salt slight imperfections that show up as light and dark lines running across the fabric. They are caused by the way the material is forced through the sewing machines by workers sewing the seams. The fabric gets bunched and the raised portion is worn away, creating white bands.

At the trial, the accused a defence team tried to discredit the "jean gene" theory by introducing 34 similar pairs. But the FBI was able distinguish every pair from those of the accused and the man was convicted.



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Yes, the owners are still dogged by that old saying about who they really look like









Two pictures by the photographer Robert Daly seen at the Association of Photographers' awards at the Barbican Centre In London. An exhibition of selected photographs runs at the Association Gallery in Domingo Street from 3 to 28 March

## Parents of heart children call for new inquiry

By jeremy Laurance Health Editor

PARENTS of children who died or were brain damaged following heart surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary demanded a public inquiry yesterday as the surgeon at the centre of the case appeared before the General Medical Council.

James Wisheart, paediatric cardiac surgeon and former medical director of the infirmary, appeared nervous and uncertain as he took the witness stand for the first time in the longest running disciplinary case in British medical history. He is charged, with two colleagues, of allowing operations on children with complex heart defects to continue after the high number of deaths indicated they should have been stopped. All three deny the charges.

Outside the council's London headquarters, parents of the children who died, who had travelled overnight from the West Country, held a silent candle-lit yigil with tiny black coffins at their feet represent-

account

THE public sector watchdog has

criticised seven new Scottish

councils for failing to produce

their accounts for examination.

In its annual report for 1997.

The Accounts Commission for

Scotland expresses concern

over the "severe delays" which

have prevented it from establishing if councils are spending

public money in a proper way.

The report also highlights a wor-

rying level of misconduct among

out by council employees, the

report says. The cases would

have cost the taxpayer £154,000.

are: Clackmannanshire. East

Ayrshire, East Lothian, Fife,

City of Glasgow, North Ayrshire,

regional and district councils'

audits have still not been com-

pleted, despite the fact that the

deadline for their submission

counts Commission, Professor

Ian Percy said: "It is of great

concern that we do not yet have assurance from the audit that all our local councils spent

public money properly in 1996

"I see no reason why local

authorities should not mirror

the efficiency of the health ser-

vice and indeed, large companies in the private sector

The Commission said an estimated £90m was lost to hous-

ing benefit cheats and up to

£10m in prescription frauds

and errors. Professor Percy

said: "Millions of pounds could

be saved each year by identifying and wiping out weaknesses

reporting on time."

in these systems.

The Chairman of the Ac-

was last August.

and 1997.

In addition, 19 of the former

and West Dumbartonshire.

The seven councils "named and shamed" by the Commission

Over half, 83, of the 150 frauds detected in Scottish councils in 1997 were carried

council workers.



Janardan Dhasmana (left) and James Wisheart

ing the lives lost. Malcolm Curnow, spokesman for the Bristol Heart Children Group, said: "Up to 1,000 children have been exposed to unnecessary risk during the period currently under investigation by the GMC. But the doctors who run the GMC are only looking at two types of operations in a restricted five-year period, We have had enough of secrecy. We need an independent public inquiry to establish the full scale of the horror story."

Inside the hearing, Mr Wisheart, 59, clasped his hands in

front of him and darted occasional quick glances at his counsel as he answered questions about his team's surgical record.

There were 29 deaths among 53 children who underwent surgery. Speaking slowly and chief executive, John Roylance, carefully, with frequent pauses, Mr Wishcart told the council that he had kept records of the operations from the start of his employment at the infirmary in 1975 and had begun tabulating the results, to make comparisons easier, from the mid-Eighties.

He said the surgical team met twice a week to discuss individual patients, and, from 1986, further meetings were held with pathologists to discuss any patient who died. In addition, all the specialists involved met two or three times a year in the evenings in someone's house to review their performance and discuss problems and future strategy.

"The quality of the work being done nationally and internationally was constantly improving and one had to keep up with that," he said.

The disciplinary hearing,

not expected to end until April, hreaks new ground for the GMC. Mr Wisheart and his codefendants, cardiac surgeon Janardan Dhasmana and trust

are charged with serious pro-

fessional misconduct, the first

time such a charge has been

which began in October and is brought over a complex issue of the risks and benefits of medical or surgical treatment. Normally such charges are levelled for clear breaches of professional ethics such as having a sexual relationship with a patient, misprescribing controlled drugs or refusing to visit a patient.

The Bristol Heart Children

not fair, not thorough and not Group, set up by campaigners complete," they said. representing 68 children who In a statement the GMC said died or who were brain damaged at the infirmary, said that

cedures over a limited period from 1990 to 1995. "We believe this hearing is

the GMC had refused to in-

clude adults in its investigation

and had limited it to two pro-

the case had been brought after an extensive investigation which concluded that questions

dants should have acted on

of serious professional misconduct arose only in relation to the question of whether the defen-

Steed in months 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 of use. "When you con

warnings from colleagues about the high death rate.

"Although we are sympathetic to the tragedies which many of the parents in this case have experienced, the GMC does not have legal powers to investigate wider organisational issues nor to offer individual patients personal redress."

### **London Underground faces** Scots strike by power workers councils The London Underground system faces total shutdown in a month's time after union leaders sanctioned a ballot on incalled to dustrial action among workers who control the power supply to the network.

The 300 staff involved - blue collar workers and management - are seeking to defend their pension rights which they believe will be undermined when their department is taken over by a private consortium. The employees, who are confidently expected to support disruption in the ballot, also want to defend their rights to travel concessions. Jimmy Knapp. general secretary of the RMT transport union, said: "Rail privatisation has been a disaster, we shouldn't make the same mistake with London Underground."

— Barrie Clement

### Dartmoor locks changed

Cell locks at Dartmoor Prison, in Cornwall, have had to be changed after a master key went missing. The key fitted "quite a number of cells" at the Category B jail, set in the heart of the Devon wilderness, said a prison source.

A "re-locking" process is at present under way at the 193-

### Gallagher guitar auction

Noel Gallagher's Epiphone Supernova guitar has been donated by the band Oasis to be auctioned in aid of the BBC Childreo In Need charity.

The songwriter's guitar signed by the band - raised £5,290, more than double the estimate as props from the band's latest album sleeve went under the hammer. Fans and collectors scooped up items ranging from a blackboard (£460) to an oversized desk calendar (£5,060) and spent more than £32,000.



### Extra aid for Montserrat

The British Government is to provide an extra £4.8m and 100 new pre-fabricated houses for the people in the volcano-hit island of Montserrat. Nineteen people have been killed and many have lost their homes since the volcano started erupting in June 1995 for the first time in 300 years.

### Sticky shaving time

Scientists have been given a £50,000 grant to tackle a problem which few men knew existed. The cash will enable a team of experts to carry out a study aimed at finding out why shaving foam goes gooey.



### I'm black - so what, says prince's aide

By Colin Brown Chef Political Correspondent

THE Prince of Wales yesterday hired his first black press aide as a committee of MPs took a sideswipe at a public appointments watchdog for not being radical enough in pressing public offices to hire more members of the ethnic minorities.

Colleen Harris, 42, was poached from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, where she was head of the media planning and coordinatioo unit.

Mrs Harris was hired as the Prince's deputy press secretary against tough competition after an interview a month ago with the Prince, who is said to have been impressed by her "bubbly" personality.

Mrs Harris, whose appointment was announced yesterday by St James's Palace, said: "I accept that it's news to have a black member of the Prince of Wales's Household. But I think

that's where the news starts and where it ends."

Prince Charles has long complained about the lack of hlack people in the Royal Household, and the guards patrolling Buckingham Palace, although the palaces do not carry out full ethnic monitoring policies.

The need for public bodies to be pressed to hire more members of the ethnic communities was underlined in a hard-hitting report by a committee of MPs under Rhodri Morgan, the Labour MP for

It called for "serious changes" in the way that public appointments were made so that they echoed "the interests, coocerns and backgrounds of most of the people in the country".

Mr Morgan said that in future the new tests should be applied to jobs which are currently in the lap of the Prime Minister, including the appointment of bishops, judges and university vice-chancellors.



History man: Teit Ritzan, creator of Edinburgh's 'Missing Links' show, with one of his exhibits Photograph: David Moir

## Sinn Fein demands RUC quiz

By David McKittrick and Alan Murdoch

THE MULTI-PARTY talks in Duhlin eoded in legal and political limbo yesterday with the issue of Sinn Fein's expulsion from oegotiacions still unresolved.

The British and Irish governments, having listened to exhaustive arguments, will deliver at a later stage their formal deliberation, which is expected to be the temporary exclusion of the republicans from the talks.

Sinn Fein's hard-fought rearguard campaign to avoid this included the seeking of an injunction from the Duhlin high court. The republican legal submissioo included the intriguing suggestion that the Royal Ulster Constabulary chief constable. Roonie Flanagan, should he cross-examined by Sinn Fein about his statement that the IRA was involved in two receot killings in Belfast. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, should also he subject to cross-examination, Sinn Fein

argued. The case has been adjourned until today, bot in the meantime, the three-day Dublin session, which was supposed to deal with the key issue of north-south links, ended last night. In the end, the threeday expulsion wrangle meant that the ceotral issue was never discussed. Hopes that the Dublin interlude might "kick start" the talks have thus been

dasbed. Precedent suggests that republicans, if ejected, would be re-admitted after a period of

their removal, even on a temporary basis, would affect the stability of the peace process.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said there "was a lot of anger" and frustration about the possible removal of Sinn Fein. He called on supporters to react "with determinatioo and discipline".

The talks chairman, former US Senator George Mitchell said he was disappointed that talks business had been held up but added that he believed agreement was still possible. "Nobody ever said it would be easy," he observed, "I am coovinced we're going to get past this difficulty."

He endorsed the suggesoon that the parties should at some stages be removed from media cootact for a concentrated period of oegotiation.

The legal action, in the name of Sinn Fein's talk represectatives, followed . Ms Mowlam's expulsive move. launched after the RUC linked the IRA with two Belfast mur-

The application claimed the party had a right to attend talks under ground rules laid down in January 1996 as it "had not disbonoured" the Mitchell Principles of democracy and non-violence, and had "at all times worked to achieve a lasting peace".

Counsel for Sinn Fein said Ms Mowlam's move to expel the party contravened principles of natural and constitutional justice. It bad denied it an opportunity to questioo the veracity or honesty of the decision, or cross-examine RUC Chief Constable Roooie Flanagan on weeks. No one knows whether whose advice it was based.

## Police follow tip on murder victim

ın Belfast

POLICE in Northern Ireland last night were waiting to search a house where it is claimed the body of a murder victim has been dumped. This follows reports that a Catholic man was abducted by lovalists from a housing estate in Lurgan.

At the same time police and soldiers mounted a major operation against the paramilitary Loyalist Volunteer Force oo another estate at Lurgan, arresting three people.

Police sources stated that they were taking reports of the body "extremely seriously" but they were waiting to enter the derelict building at Soldierstown Road in Aghalee while they checked for boobytraps.

The oews of the search and fears of a sectarian killing came killings last month.

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as tensioo in mounted by the bour yesterday. Senior officers are preparing for a republican backlash on the streets if Sinn Fein are kicked out of the peace talks. In this climate the sectarian murder of a Catholic, they say, would be

"incendiary". The three suspects were arrested in the staunchly loyalist Mournview Estate and taken for questioning to Gough Barracks in Armagh. The LVF murdered six Catholics following the assassination of their leader Billy Wright inside the Maze Prison in December by the republican Irish National Liberation Army.

RUC chief constable Ronnie Flanagan set up a special team to collate intelligence and carry out operations against the LVF following the spate of

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## Bitter finale for Hillsborough families who battled for a decade

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IT IS NOW nearly a decade since that Saturday afternoon in April when Hillsborough in Sheffield became forever associated with death and mayhem, when 95 people went to a football match and never returned home. The intervening years have turned their relatives into resolute fighters, determined to establish what happened at the Sheffield Wednesday stadium in 1989, to learn exactly why their sons, daughters and brothers died, and who was to blame.

Now, after a police investigation, a government inquiry, an inquest, a High Court challenge. a documentary drama and, most recently, a review of evidence that led to the decision by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, yesterday to rule out a fresh public inquiry, bereaved families are still waiting for answers.

The disaster, witnessed live on television by many relatives, took place before the FA



Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. In an effon to relieve a crush outside the ground, police ordered a targe gate to be opened, allowing hundreds of lans to pour into the overcrowded pens at the Leppings Lane end. Scores of people died as they

were forced against fencing. The government inquiry chaired by Lord Justice Taylor laid the blame squarely on South Yorkshire police, who he said had failed to plan for the arrival of large numbers of fans. But to the fury of the families, senior police officers re-

drunk and ticketless, compounded the grief of relatives. ti was to the inquest, held in 1991, that they looked to establish the exact cause of victims' deaths. But the South Yorkshire coroner, Dr Stefan Popper, refused to take evidence relating to events later than a cut-off point of 3.15pm on the day. The jury returned a verdict of acci-

dental death. Two years later,

responsibility. Rumours that

Liverpool fans caused the crush

families of six of the victims applied for judicial review, asking the High Court to quash the verdict and order a new inquest that could lead to a verdict of unlawful killing. The court refused. In late 1996, Hillsborough

returned to the forefront of public consciousness by a relevision drama documentary written by Jimmy McGovern. New evidence uncovered by the programme suggested police must have known the severity of overfused to admit at the inquiry any crowding when they opened the gate. A closed-circuit camera was said to have been workby arriving at the ground late, ing, contrary to evidence at the inquest. It was the discovery of the police video, and new medical evidence turned up by the programme, that led Mr Straw to order a review last summer to establish whether a fresh inquiry was warranted.

For relatives, his decision yesterday represents yet another slap in the face from officialdom, and means that their grieving is far from over.



Hillsborough bereaved at the Commons yesterday. Top, McGovern's drama-documentary

Photograph: John Voos

## Spreading lessons is better for reading

Government plans to make primary school children learn to read by concentrating on English for an hour a-day may not be the best way to teach read-

New research by Warwick University shows that three or four 15-minute sessions spread throughout the day can produce a "staggering" improvement in children's reading.

Dr Jonathan Solity, a lecturer in educational psychology at the university's Institute of Education, has studied four and five-year-olds in schools in Education for Essex County deprived parts of Essex since Council, said: "As we know 1996. In the project, teachers from common sense, little and used a number of "commonsense" measures like constantly recapping on what was taught

and regular testing. The Early Reading Re- further." search is due to be published later this year. The study's results contradict the Department for Education's recommendation last July that schools ed hour a-day teaching literaspend an hour a-day teaching

showed that after nine months children in the schools taking search was compiled in a survey part were nine months ahead in of best practice in Britain and their reading compared to those in similar schools.

Children in the schools in the study had an average reading age of five years and nine months, when their actual average age was five years and four months.

This compared to children in the comparison schools who negative" about the Warwick had an average reading age of five years old.

Dr Solity said: "The results of this research were staggering. I applaud the Government for introducing more rigour into education. However, it could miss an opportunity to get tiative stopped.

things done even more effectively, if it sticks to an hour of concentrated work for younger children."

He added that only 1 per cent of children in one age group in the study were at risk of having problems reading compared to 20 per in comparison schools. High achievers also did better in the schools taking part in the study.

Dr Solity stressed that he wanted to be sure his research was on the right track so the project was due to continue un-

Paul Lincoln, Director of often is probably the best way to learn. This research could be instrumental in taking the National Literacy Strategy

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said the recommendation for primary schools to spend a concentratcy was based on a wide range of research. Some was carried Dr Solity said initial results out by the Office for Standards in Education, other re-

abroad. She added that ministers were determined that the standard of English was improved and the approach was a key part of the strategy.

Ted Wragg, Professor of Education at Exeter University, said he was "sceptical but not research.

He said studies often produced very good results just because the teachers were very enthusiastic and excited about taking part. The problem was what happened after the ini-



We're not the only ones who know the £1.5 billion Britain spends every year on nuclear weapons is a waste.

### DAILY POEM

### The health farm called 'Inches Free'

By Willie Bunter Yates', aka Carol Rumens

I will arise and go now, and go to 'Inches Free'. A single room will I book there, without mini-bar or Teasmade. Nine enemas will I have there, and drink water endlessly, And I'll run every hour to the pee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace of mind, for peace of mind is won When you drop below ninety calories a day, When you feel your waistband loosen, and your belly shrinking

(And you're payin' a quare sum to get that way).

I will arise and go now, for always I can hear The slim young bard within me, sighing to be let out. He's sighing as I order River Shannon Truite Meunière, And when I'm drinking pints of Murphy's stout.

The Daily Poems today and tomorrow come from The Miracle Diet, which combines verse by Carol Rumens and cartoons by Viv Quillin. Taking a light, but nourishing, look at issues of food, fat, weight, and the social pressures to consume and conform, the book is published this week by Bloodaxe (£6.95). The government claims Britain's nuclear weapons are a deterrent and add authority to the influence our diplomats can exert overseas.

Recent events would suggest otherwise. Britain does not need nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons do not

Sixty one leading military experts, including Britain's Field Marshal Lord Carver, America's General Lee Butler and Russia's General Aleksandr Lebed have recently called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Yet the British government continues to spend approximately £1.5 billion every year on Trident when critical social issues like homelessness, health care, education and public transport remain desperately under-funded.

In this, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's 40th Anniversary year, we ask you to join with us to rid our world of nuclear weapons and stop this nuclear waste,

If you believe Britain's £1.5 billion nuclear weapons budget would be better spent helping the homeless, providing better education for our children and creating an efficient health care system, join CND today.

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Stop the nuclear waste

## 'Childcare vital to our strategy'

We are delighted to see The Independent is taking up the issue of childcare. It is very dear to my heart. It is a Government priority.

Any time you're out shopping you'll pay a woman at the check-out. When you come round from an operation in hospital, the chances are you'll sec a woman at your bedside, a doctor or a nurse. The clothes you wear are likely to have been made by a woman.

A third of these women will also be someone's mother.

Britain now depends on women's work as well as men's. Our economy depends on them - but so too do their families. Women today are very much part of the world of work but they still remain the hackbone of the family. Women's shoutdering of extra responsibilities to provide for their families by working has not vet heen matched by men taking extra responsibility in the home. So for nearly all women, combining work and home responsibilities is a struggle, and sometimes a nightmare. Too many mothers can't find childcare that they can trust and afford - childcare that matches their work hours.

It's not like this in the rest of Europe. There, high-quality childcare is taken for granted. But when it comes to childcare, Britain's children are Europe's

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### THE MINISTER

poor relations. That's one of the reasons why lone parents here are less likely to work and more likely to be bringing up their children on benefit.

For many women, the cost of childcare can be crippling, That is why the Chancellor said in his pre-Budget report that his March Budget will huild on the successful elements of Family Credit and deliver better help through the tax system for childcare costs.

This Government believes that childcare is central to children and families - central to our social and economic policy. Getting childcare right is crucial to building strong families and communities and to running a sound and stable economy.

In conjunction with the Department for Education and Employment we are driving forward our plans for the first ever National Childcare Strategy. which we will publish in the Spring. The three watchwords of our strategy are quality, accessibility, and affordability.

First, quality. We want to give our children the best possible start in life. That means more and better-trained childcare workers, an improved system of regulation and inspection, and a seamless service of education and childcare

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out-of-school childcare provi-

sion over the next 5 years. This

will fund up to an extra 30,000

childcare projects. That means

provision for around a million

children, up from only 100,000

children at present. £40m has al-

ready been made available for the

first year, starting from this April.

have already announced plans

their Family Credit.

Minister for Women.

Third, affordahility. We

Harriet Harman reacts to The Independent's campaign on childcare while Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, meets a family caught in the trap between children and work, and readers tell us that they stand squarely in support of help for working mothers



Growing pains: Rob and Sue Youel with Rhiannon, aged 3, who had to be left with friends while her father went to college and her mother to work Photograph: Steve Forrest/Guzelian

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## 'What are we meant to do without help?"

ROB YOUEL realised that as a manual worker approaching 50 he wasn't likely to find a joh. Wanting to support his wife. Sue, and three-year-old daughter Rhiannon, he decided to increase his chances of finding employment by getting a qualification. "I wanted a joh which could give both of them a decent standard of living." he said. So he enrolled for a BA in Humanities.

There the trouble began. king in a petrol station on shift work. Rob had to be at college, a good half-an-hour away, four days a week. Who could look after Rhiannon?

"We found out we couldn't get her in the college crèche." said Rob. "We applied to various places for funding hut there was absolutely nothing. Their attitude was not that CASE STUDY

they didn't want to help, but that they were incapable of doing so.

Sue brings home on average £85 a week from her job. Their family credit of £42 is under review because Roh has qualified for a grant. Yet when they priced childminders they were quoted £60 a week, half their income. If we had less than £3,000 income then we'd get help. But because Sue works we

don't get any help." Roh said. The couple, who live in Pennington. West Yorkshire, worked it out by farming Rhiannon out to friends and by Roh occasionally missing lectures if he

had to look after the child. "t hadn't got into trouble although there were other people on my course who had been

warned for missing too much."

Sue added: "My friend who looked after Rhiannon was very good, but you can't impose on people forever. It could only have ever been a stop-gap." This term the Youels man-

aged to get Rhiannon into the college crèche which charges only £10.50 a week. Even so, she cannot attend every day which means Thursday remains a day of juggling shifts and classes. "They're trying to encourage people to go into work but there's no childcare when you get there." Sue said. "Education gives you the means to better yourself hut there's no help ... What are people meant to do?"

"I would like to go to college myself so I could get a better job. But I just don't know whether the finances would work out."

## Readers pledge support for mothers

YESTERDAY we launched The Independent's campaign for a tax allowance for working mothers. Since then dozens of readers have pledged their support.

Those who have responded to our campaign include Lord Russell, and Lesley Abdela, chief executive of Project Parity which trains future women teaders around the world and Andrew Smith, Secretary of the Scottish Young Liberal Democrats.

"Women who go back to work, bringing hack valuable skills to the husiness world, pay a dear price for the luxury of independence - or just standing on their own feet," says Alison Purver of Leeds. "Having children and going to work should not he a luxury and I totally support your campaign."

"In the early Nineties, as a PhD student and a single parent of three children. I was trapped in what only can be described as childcare hell," says Dr Ijeoma Uchegbu from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Strathelyde University. "Although I had an expen-

sive child-minder ... I also had to rely on family, friends and kind neighbours ... Now my children are aged 15, 11 and 8 and I am a tax paying pharmacy lecturer and researcher. If I had given up, I would probahly be a benefit scrounging single parent' to some."

"I am a solicitor, so enjoyed well above average female earn-

REACTION ings, but as I wanted to work

more and more part-time the cost-effectiveness diminished." says Penelope Overton of St Albans, "In the end I quit working after five years post-children. The issue which seemed particularly unjust was that for a time I was paying a nanny as an employee and was unable to deduct her salary from mine before tax."

Kate Holden says: "The UK is so behind all other European countries, it does little to encourage mothers back to work and gives no help to those who have ... made the choice to return to work. It's not only lone mothers ... most people struggle to pay childcare and good childcare costs a fortune!"

"Someone has finally recognised the terrible financial stress that is placed on families who need to pay for childcare," says Melissa Slater from London.

"My 18-month-old child is cared for by a child-minder at a cost of £95 per week. I find myself expecting our second child in July. We are going to have to sell our home... because we will not be able to afford the £190 per week [£823 per month] in childcare fees, and it is really breaking our hearts. It makes me wonder in a system that can so cripple a family that it made us question whether or not we should have our second child due to financial reasons."

Sheila Candeland, subject librarian at All Saints Library, Manchester Metropolitan University, says: "I've just worked out what I pay for my two children and it comes to just over £4,000. I can't help feeling that we are almost being penalised for having children who, when adult, will be contributing to the economy in all sorts of ways, and will be helping to pay our pensions in 20 years time!"

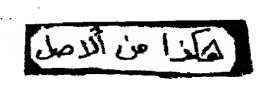


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## Acupuncture treatment link to deadly virus

By lan Burrell

HEALTH officials have warned a London medical centre to stop treatment involving needles after an obscure form of acupuncture was linked to an outbreak of the potentially deadly Hepatitis B virus.

Three patients have already contracted the virus and Barnet Health Authority in north Londoo is trying to contact around 100 other patients of the Finchley Alternative Medical Centre to see if they are infected.

The acupuncture method. known as haemotherapy, has become fashionable in some complementary medicine circles and has attracted patients to Loodon from across the world. The treatment involves injecting drops of the patient's own blood through a hole made by an acupuncture needle.

The authority said: "We would emphasise that no connection has yet been proved but we do know that the centre uses a homoeopathic treatment where a drop of the patient's blood is extracted and theo reinjected through the site of an acupuncture needle after being treated in a saline solution." In usual acupuncture

practice, needles are sterilised hy being kept in an autoclave at 121C for 15 minutes. Many acupuncturists only use singleuse needles.

A spokeswoman for the authority said it had no powers to close the centre but officials from the Health and Safety Executive had visited the centre to decide whether to issue a prohibition notice. She later said that the centre had voluntarily agreed to stop all acupuncture and haemotherapy.

Hepatitis B is a virus strain which causes a potentially fatal infection of the liver. It has a fatality rate of between 6 and 20 per coot, whereas that of Hepatitis A is 1-2 per cent. It has an incubation period of 100 days or more and is transmitted by the transfusion of contaminated blood or by the use of contaminated occides. It is a particular threat to drug users or those having tattoos.

The scare began on Monday when the centre notified health officials that Hepatitis B had heen identified in three patients, two from Birmingham and one from Oxford. The centre is legally required to report any evidence of communicable diseases to its health authority.

The centre is in an area noted for its wide range of afternative medicine clinics, acupuncturists and health food outlets, it was emphasised that clients of centres nearby were not at risk.

The centre yesterday refused to discuss the outhreak. A wnman there said: "It is none of your husiness and you are not coming here. The health authority told us not to talk to any newspaper."

Last night many experts in Chinese and complementary medicine and acupuncture said they had never heard of hacmotherapy.

John Parkinson, spokesman for the British Acupuncture Council, said: "This is just not a standard technique. There is a common core of techniques which the majority of acupuociurists use regularly. Then there are a vast range of supplementary techniques which stem from the thousands of years of use in

Dr Bisong Guo, an expert in Chinese traditional medicine who advises the Institute for Complementary Medicine, said she had not come across the



A question of therapy: One form of acupuncture involves re-injecting a patient's blood through a needle hole

Photograph: Kunz/Network

### Dome not green, say campaigners

By Louise Jury

PLANS FOR a showpiece Millennium Village designed as a blueprint for future urban devopment were unveiled by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday.

But they immediately ran into criticism from housing exciting opportunity to create campaigners, while environmentalists highlighted shortcomings in the whole Dome project.

The scheme, which will be at the heart of the Dome celehrations in Greenwich, southeast London, is intended to low Woodrow. Countryside

encourage a thriving community of private home-owners alongside social housing.

The properties will incorporate the latest energy-saving and high-tech building innovations in a 32-acre site of steeland timher-framed homes.

Mr Prescott said: "This is an a community built to the highest quality of architectural design, which embraces a mixed use approch and addresses cnvironmental and energy conservation issues."

A consortium including Tay-

Properties and the Ujima Housing Association submitted the plans which have been chosen by the Government for development.

There will be 172 homes for rent and another 94 available under rent/buy schemes out of a total of 1,400.

But Shelter expressed reservations about the development which appeared to fall short of its recommendation of 40 per cent social housing.

Chris Holmes, the housing charity's director, said: "The Millennium Village provides a unique opportunity to think

about how we want to live in the 21st century. The health of the whole community will only flourish if those who are most vulnerable are provided for a the heart of this project."

Jenny Bates of the Friends of the Earth, welcomed the ecovillage and said it could be a model for other developments around the country.

But she said, apart from the Dome and the village, there was a third part of the site set aside for a large retail development with car parking which was "not much greener than a pile of toxic sludge".

### Britain accused over war assets

THE GOVERNMENT came under heavy fire yesterday over its failure to publish a report into cases where Britain refused to return properties and assets to Holocaust survivors after the Second World War.

Lord Janner demanded the publication of the Department of Trade and Industry and Foreign Office investigation.

And he wants the immediare compensation of individuals whom he claimed lost out because of Britain's actions. Speaking in the House of Lords, Greville Janner asked how Britain could expect action from the Swiss and the Vatican over their links to looted assets

and not respond itself. He said survivors did not understand the delay in releasing the report, which was delivered to the DTI before the conference on Nazi gold held in London at the beginning of

December. During the Second World War, hank balances and assets were blocked to prevent the enemy - which included any citizen or company of a country at war with Britain, therefore m-

cluding many Jews - drawing upon them.

After the war, treaties allowed the Government to offset its claims and the claims of British citizens in respect of their property taken in enemy

Although special arrangements were made for Jews to reclaim assets, the criteria often made it impossible.

Lord Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, wants compensation for the families who lost out. But it is believed that it is the question of whether to offer com-

pensatioo - and if so, who should pay for it - which has caused the delay.

Lord Haskell, for the Government, said the Jews' losses were an "unintended by-product of necessary action taken to prevent enemy countries from securing assets in this country for their war effort".

He said: "I would like to stress that in general, the compensation arrangements proved successful.

'In all, some £2m was paid to around 1,000 claimants, with only some 16 per cent being refused payment."



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## Welfare 'must be feminised'

By Anthony Beyins Political Editor

THE MALE domination of Beveridge's social welfare system would be broken down by the Government's reforms, Frank Field said last night.

The minister for welfare reform said in a Commons debate un the uprating in social security benefits that the "dead hand of the past" was guiding too much of what was being speotwith more than 60 per ceot of the ocar-£100bn hudget set by legislatioo passed before 1948.

But In a later lecture, Mr Field also contrasted the Bevcridge legacy with the requirements of the modern world which would no longer accept a system of fixed, flat-rate benefits, paid out tu "passive" claimants. He also criticised the outdated male culture of Beveridge, saying: "Male workers are about to be outnumbered by female workers in Britain. Of course, many women workers work part-time so they are able to combine parenting and paid

"Yet the existence of what will shortly be the majority

group of the working populatioo has still to be adequately recognised in our social security system. Beveridge designed a male social insurance system. The world has changed. So, too, must welfare.

"Taking women seriously as workers is one oecessary direction of welfare reform. There are a number of choices opeo to reformers. One strain of the reform process is oot whether, but how this male social security system can be

"The existence of nearly half the working population now being composed of womeo has major implications for welfare reform, whether the route being advocated is one of means-testing, or of social insurance, or of a pay-as-you-go extension of funded provision."

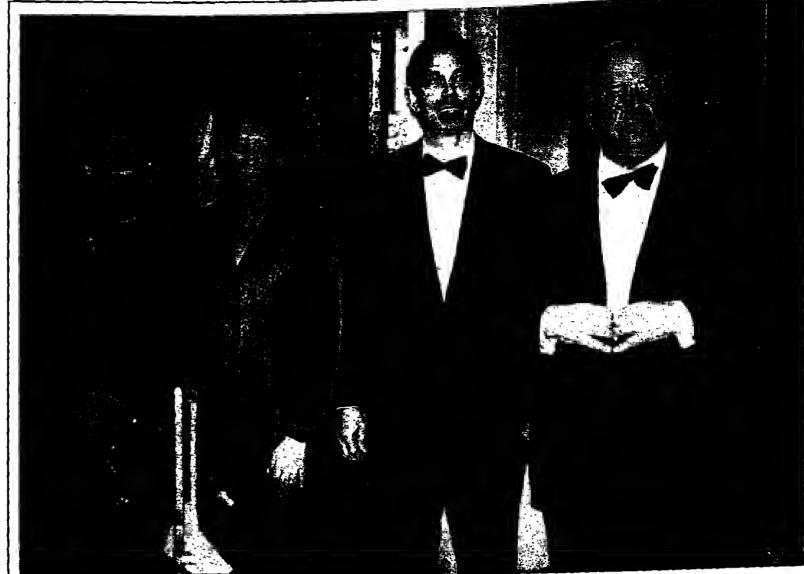
A government source told The Independent that ministers were thinking particularly of bolstering the efforts of working women to build up their own pensions, but further help for childcare would also be principles of the consultative Green Paper on welfare reform,

due to be published soon.

In a report from the Commons Social Security Committee yesterday - on the lessons that might be learned from the United States - MPs said that one of the ways work was made more attractive in Wisconsin was by giving help to people moving off welfare with the costs of child care and

Among the "key themes" from the Wisconsin experimeot, which the committee said should be addressed, was a "change from a passive income mainteoance system to pro-active welfare to work strat-

Mr Field said in his lecture that in 1948, two-thirds of welfare claimants had been over retirement age; today, two-thirds of claimants were of working age. He said, a fundamentally different service was therefore now required. "Benefit payments are required, of course, but governments now have an equal duty to provide what we are calling an active modern considered under the guiding service to help claimants renegotiate to move back into work,



All smiles: Chancellor Kohl and his wife, Hannelore, with the Blairs at Number 10 last night

Photograph: Paul Hackett/Reuters

### Attack on honour for Kohl rebounds on Redwood

By Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

AN ATTACK oo the City of London by Tory Euro-sceptics for bonouring Chancellor Helmut Kohl with the Freedom of the City of Londoo last night backfired on William Hague's trade spokesman, John Red-

Mr Redwood called on the City Corporation not 10 bestow the honour on Chancellor Kohl because it would be honouring European eco-

nomic and monetary union. Accusing the Government and the City of making a mistake in bonouring the German leader. Mr Hague's leading Euro-sceptic said in a party news release: "Many British

people have no personal dislike of Chancellor Kohl but are strongly against monetary

"As monetary unioo is Chancellor Kohl's crusade, the City's iodecision over EMU has been overwhelmed by their endorsement of its ar-

While Chancellor Köhl was en-

joying the freedom of the City

of London yesterday, his

youngest son, Peter, appeared

to have made use of his free-

Peter, aged 33, has been

dom to leave it.

SON'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE

working as an investment American investment bank,

But last night Mr Redwood was given a slap over the wrist by Mr Hague and ordered to withdraw the press release. Red-faced Tory officials pointed out that Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, was attending the ceremony at the Guildhall in

honour of Chancellor Kohl.

banker in London for five

years. But he suddenly left his

former employer last month

without notifying colleagues of

of Salomon Brothers, the

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a new career path.

"John Redwood has withdrawn the press release. Chancellor Kohl is being given the honour for the reunification of Germany without bloodshed."

Margaret Bcckett, the President of the Board of Trade, said: "Following our interventioo, William Hague has recognised that John Red-

said he had left without leav-

definitely didn't want to be seen

just as the son of his father. We

left him alone because he dear-

ly wanted to live life as himself,

not a young Helmut Köhl."

A former colleage said: "He

ing any forwarding address.

oeeds to be brought to heel." Downing Street had earlier denied it had "leaned" on the City Corporation to bestow the hooour on Chancellor Kohl. Chancellor Kohl's arrival at

wood is out of control and

the Guildhall was greeted by a small demonstration of Euro-sceptics protesting at the threat to the pound posed by his plans for EMU. The Prime Minister's offi-

cial spokesman dismissed the claims by Mr Redwood, accusing him of being "one of the more serious victims of Opposition politics".

Number 10 said it was consulted by the Corporation on the decision to present the honour to Chancellor Kohl.

hri

Wes

### TUC in union rights battle

By Barrie Clement

THE TUC yesterday opened up a new battle front with the Prime Minister over the controversial issue of union recognition.

Launching its biggest political campaign in a decade, the TUC urged Downing Street to ignore employers who sought to exclude small firms from the proposed law.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, warned against the CBI's contention that businesses employing fewer than 50 people should be excluded from the legislation. That would mean half the working population would not be cov- as important, but where the more than most."

"Either union recognition is a basic democratic right at work, or it isn't," he said. Unions believe they won

the argument over the majority required in any workplace ballot on recognitioo. The CBI argued effectively that absteotions would be counted as votes against - a position thought to contended that recognition should only be granted when rather than half of those who actually vote.

ered by the law, Mr Monks said. Prime Minister might be inclined to favour the employers. The TUC is more confident of attracting the support of Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and her minister, Ian McCartney.

Mr Monk said: "Small business lobbyists sometimes say that staff are treated as part of the family in such enterprises have been favoured by the and therefore there is no need Prime Mioister. Employers for any extra protection for em-The small firm sector in-

half the workforce voted for it. dudes some of the best and some of the worst employers. The best have nothing to fear Now the TUC is turning to from union recognition and other issues which it believes are the staff of the worst need it



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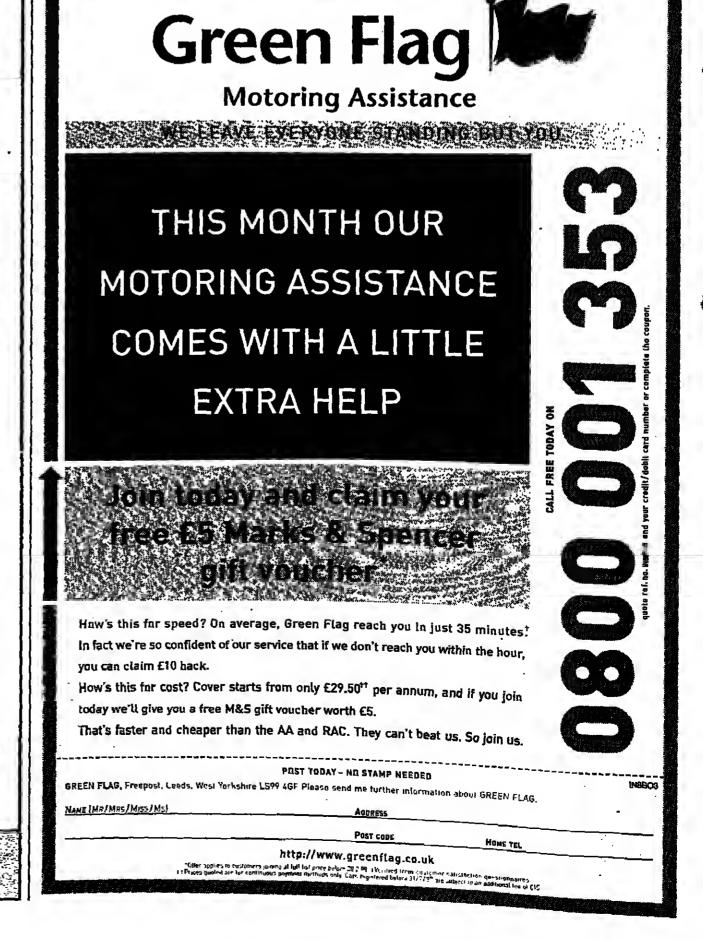
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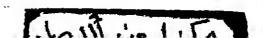
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MANCHESTER





## UK movies plagued by secondrate scripts

By David Lister Arts News Editor

The downside of the British film industry was glimpsed yesterday when the people in charge of giving lottery money to new of the scripts they are sent are Sub-standard

the Arts Council's National Lottery Film Unit, said many of the scripts sent in by production companies have "weak charaeterisation, poor dialogue and poor plotting.
"Some films that we have put

money into are pretty weak, British scripts go into production too soon. The typical four drafts - if you're very lucky --- are simply not enough for a polished product."

She added that producers were still submitting a high proportion of adaptations of classic novels, and she said that in future money would be going into original scripts "a new Full Monty rather than another Jane Austen".

bc

**MARKE** 

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Yesterday, the Arts Council announced a new £1m fund from National Lottery money to help producers develop scripts. On average, a script for a British film costs between £30,000 and £40,000 to develop, with money going towards commissioning the original screenplay,

rewrites and lawyers' fees. The Council has already put £45m of lottery money into 85

new British films over the last three years, and recouped £945,146. Only 15 of the films have so far been released. There have been some successes such as Wilde and The British films revealed that most critical flops,, including Keep Woodlanders, but a number of The Aspidistra Flying with Richard E Grant and Helena Carolyn Lambert, director of Bonham Carter, and True Blue. the boat race film which was chosen for the Royal Film Performance. The 85 films funded are less than a quarter of the 400 scripts seen by the tottery film panel

Charles Denton, chairman of the Lottery Film Panel and formerly head of drama at the BBC, said: "Too many scripts are coming in to the Arts Council which are simply not good not ready. There are too many duff scripts out there."

The £1m announced vesterday is only the first phase of diverting more lottery money to help British film. The Arts Council and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport will he making a joint announceseveral million pounds into film distribution, with the objective of persuading the hig cinema chains in the UK to take more British films as opposed to Hollywood movics.

The money is likely to go into marketing and promotion of British films to the largely US-



## Legal executive cleared of rhino-horn charge

enough and in some cases are eros horn was cleared by a court vesterday.

Judge Peier Langan OC ruled at King's Lynn Crown Court there was no case to answer against Paul Rexstrew at the end of the prosecution case on the second day of the hearing. The jury was directed to return a verdict of not ment next month about putting guilty against. Mr. Rexstrew, 45, of Wimhledon, south-west London. Four other people, Carol

Scotchford-Hughes, 50, of Willingham. Cambridgeshire, Elaine Arscott, 40, and David Eley, 54, both of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, and a serving prisoner, 63-year-old financed distribution networks. Wilfred Bull, have admitted

A MAN accused of conspiring the charge of conspiring to sell to sell £2.8m worth of rhinoe- rhino horn between 1 January and 4 September 1996 and are due to be sentenced next

> The court was told the conspiracy was hatched by Mr Bull in prison where he was serving tife for murdering his wife in 1985. Bull - who was jailed in

t986 - had collected the 127 hlack and white rhino pieces before their trade was outlawed in 1985 and wanted to sell them in preparation for his expected release in 1997.

The court was told that Bull hrought in his mistress, Scotchford-Hughes, who recruited Eley and Arscott, They hoped Far East where they are sought after as a medicine and an aphrodisiac.

But the RSPCA was tipped off after Arscott, using a false name, rang the London Stock Exchange to inquire about a sale. Police and RSPCA undercover officers then posed as

to sell the horns to buyers in the huyers and arranged to huy the 235kg of rhino horn for £12,000 per kilogram after a series of meetings in a Cambridge hotel.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Rexstrew, a legal executive with a firm of London solicitors, had been brought in by Bull to make the financial arrangements and launder the

money because the sale was illegal under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement Regulations) Act 1985. But the judge accepted a . defence submission that there was no case to answer because there was no evidence to prove that Mr Rexstrew knew the subject of the deal was rhino horn.

## Goose death of a hig cat. Edinburgh. unusual," he added.

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## fuels big cat fears

A PATHOLOGIST'S report into the death of a goose has fuelled speculation that big cats are roaming the countryside.

After years of mysterious sightings, usually dismissed as being overweight family cats or figments of the imagination, an Edinburgh pathologist has said he is convinced that a goose, handed to him by Essex police for examination, was the victim

"I am of the opinion that it was a lynx that killed the goose," said Ranald Munro, of the Veterinary Laboratory Agency in

"The goose died following a severing of the spine and hites to the neck. But more interesting was the chest which had been deeply clawed. It is most

During the past two years numerous sightings of a large animal have been reported in Pyfield and Matching Tye in Essex. But alarm grew after the remains of a 12lb goose was found in nearby North Weald.

Ongar police were unable to explain its injuries and sent the carcass to Dr Munro. Quentin Rose, Europe's only professional dangerous

animal trapper, has been advising Ongar police and is trying to trap the animal. Mr Rose, who estimates there are 100 big cats living wild in Britain, said: "It's certainly a

large cat, a panther I should

Sightings of big cat in the wild in Britain date back to 1983. The first was in Cornwall and the animal was dubbed the Beast of Bodmin. Almost 50 sightings or kills were reported in 1984. But a Ministry of Agriculture investigation found "no verifiable evidence". Since then people have reported sightings in Exmoor, Suffolk, Surrey, Hampshire, Scotland and Wales.

Paul Tyler, MP for North Cornwall, has been campaigning for a government investigation.

He said: "The Essex case adds to the jigsaw. Nobody before has put their hand on their heart and said it's a puma, panther or lynx."





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## The toll road that will raze homes, ruin the greenbelt and won't even relieve congestion

RESIDENTS whose homes will be blighted by a six-lane privately owned toll expressway. which Labour once vowed would oever be built, go to the High Court tomorrow to begin a legal challenge 10 the scheme.

An alliance of community groups is to demand access to the secret contract agreements for the construction of the Birmingham Northern Relicf Road due to run through miles of green belt land and two sites of special scientific interest.

Labour vowed in opposition that it would block what will be Britain's first privately financed toll road, so residents were angered wheo Jobo Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and responsible for transport, gave the go-ahead last summer.

They want to see details of the Department of Transport agreement with the contractors, Midland Expressway, and theo hope to challenge compulsory purchase orders which have arrived through residents' letter boxes in the last week.

Cbarles Bradshaw-Smith, the alliance's chairman, said: "We have been advised that the agreement should be in the public domain, but the department refuses to make it public."

Although there are eovironmeotal objections - there is an eovironmental protest camp near Shenstone - resideots also condemn the scheme on eco-Mr Bradshaw-Smith said: "The disgrace of this is the road isn't even going to fit the purpose."

Traffic figures suggested that at peak hours the relief effect would be minimal and the extra capacity would be more thao consumed by growth in traffic, he said. And where the road rejoins the M6, a massive bottleneck would be created.

Mr Bradshaw-Smith also

week which concluded that new roads do oot bring employment to an area.

The residents have so far raised £28,000 for their campaign "which is supported by 10 local councils and groups such as Friends of the Earth and Transport 2000.

Gerald Kells, of Friends of the Earth, said: "The Governmeot is disrupting all these people's lives to no great purpose. We're not going to see motorways suddenly uocongested."

At Norton Canes, there will be 12 toll booths next to a 68acre service area. The road will horder a graveyard.

Lily Jones, 60, a parish councillor, said: "I'm a Labour persoo and I'm absolutely disgusted. People feel very let down by the Labour Party afler they pledged when in op-position not to build this road."

At Hednesford Road io oearby Brownhills, a row of bomes is to be compulsorily purchased and razed, to the fury of many residents who do not want to go. Others say they would rather see their properties compulsorily purchased than have to live by the road.

Hazel Barnes, 52, and her husband, John, 53, will look down 300 metres over a junction at Chasetown, where they graze their horses, "We just can't believe it's going to happen," sbe said. They have already been affected with a fall nomic and practical grounds. in house prices, and properties are oot seiling. "The people whose houses are being pulled down and forced to move out are the lucky ones."

A Department of Transport spokeswoman said Labour bad not promised to stop the road. The agreement with the road's builders was "commercially confidential". The department says the £370m scheme is part of an integrated transport syspointed to an expert report last tem for the West Midlands.



Where traffic will thunder: Hazel Barnes's bedroom will have all too good a view of the road Photograph: John Lawrence

### Born too short? It's all in the stars

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

Somehow, astrologers seem to have overlooked something that they should have been able to predict for ages: your evenmal beight depends on the month in which you were born. A survey of more than half

a million men in Austria has found that if you are born in March, you will be slightly, but significantly, taller than someooe born in September.

Though the variation is just 0.6 centimetres (0.2 inches) between the peak and trough. with the average occurring for babies born in January and July, a team at the Institute of Human Biology at the University of Vienna is confident that the link exists.

They suggest that the differences, which were observed over 10 years in army conscripts aged 18, could be caused by the pineal gland,

located in the brain, which produces the hormone melatonin in reaction to the daily cycle of light and darkness.

"The underlying mechanism [of height differences] might iovolve the lightdependent activity of the pineal gland," said Gerhard Weber, who led the team which reports today in the science journal Nature.

However the link arises, it has a peculiar periodicity: the body heights vary exactly with the amount of sunshine, in a 365-day cycle, but the tallest babies are born 89 days ahead of the longest day (or possibly, the researchers suggest, 276 days after it). "This may provide empirical facts for clinical research on the pineal gland and melatonin," they say. Or it may just be another line for astrologers: "If you are born today ... good news! You have a slightly better chance of becoming a supermodel."

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## Shop staff in front line against crime

By Jason Bennetto

Crime Correspondent SHOP workers are facing a record number of attacks, both physical and verbal, from dis-

gruntled customers and thieves.

according to a new report. The oumber of robberies has also shot up by 42 per cent to 17,000 with off-licences, jewellers and petrol stations most at risk. The number of staff physically assaulted rose by 44 per cent to 13,000 and a further 177,000 were threatened with violence or subjected 10

verbal abuse. The director of the fifth anmual Retail Crime Survey, compiled by the British Retail Consortium, said the surge in violence against staff was "hor-

Overall, the cost to retailers of criminal activity fell from £1.42bo to £1.38bn last year although it still costs every housebold in the United Kingdom £85. Shoplifting, or customer theft cost shops £608m fol-

lowing a 14 per ceot drop in the

number of incidents to 4.3 mil-

lion. While thefts by staff fell by 16 per cent they still account for more than half the losses. Marks & Spencer blamed "persisteot and professional" criminals for the bulk of

shoplifting crimes, warning that some gangs were stealing goods worth up to £2m a year. The figures show there was one incident of shoplifting every three seconds during opening

hours with a member of shop

staff assaulted or threatened

every mioute of the working

day. Some 54 per cent of physical attacks on staff bappeoed when they tackled shop thieves. Workers in chemists' sbops

were the most likely to be assaulted with 34 attacks per 1.000 staff last year. Director-general of the BRC, Ann Robinson, said the rise io violence against shopworkers was "horrific" and suggested it was a reflection of a

geoeral trend towards a more violent society. "These are very frightening experiences. Increasingly it is the people in small shops open long hours who suffer the worst effects and for the small retailer who lives over the shop the whole family can be trauma-

tised." she said. The shop workers' union, Usdaw, called for more action to stem the rising tide of vio-

Bill Connor, general secretary, blamed longer opening bours for the increased danger and said shop owners should do more to protect their staff, in particular installing more surveillance equipment

"Extended opening hours in stores have undoubtedly contributed to the number of violent incidents, particularly drugand alcohol-related crimes." Burglaries, including break-

incidents, costing shops £155m. Marks & Spencer said its research showed that people who stole from shops as a "day job" were often the same criminals who burgled houses and committed violent crimes to feed a drugs habit.

ins and ram-raids, have balved

in the past five years to 87,000

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IN THE car park of a Californian horse-race track, a at the University of California as little as 12 feet apart. The curious spectacle is under way.

A cilum Arch Ruist I and Burkley gathered here this Clinton administration, appar-A silver-grey Buick LeSabre, a week to concede that its time enthy unimpressed, cut off fundcomfortable sedan preferred has not quite yet come, but say ing this year, in favour uf by middle-aged, middle-class middle Americans, is careening round parked cars at speeds uf buried in the Tarmac, a car wanders into its path. The dashpoard emits a squeak and the Benedict Bouglar takes the an abrupt left-right swerve. wheel and guides it off a collision course.

"Sometimes," she says, "we er feet out of the window." The Buick, loaded with \$30,000 (£18,750) worth of equipment including computer-driven was developed as part of an ex- ed Highway System.

periment in converting America's freeways into a giant drove themselves in convuy Scalextric track.

it points to the inevitable future exploring less ambitious forms for the family car.

rounds a corner, following a and turned in little jerks, the car half-mile track of magnets cut through a narrow path of bollards, cornered at about 35mph, sped up and then slowed for a road bump, and finally threw Buick slows as French engineer passengers from side to side in "Automated control on," an-

nounces a soft female computnave ridden this car with our destination." In 1994 the US transport department. government set aside \$200m in funding over seven years for a consortium of university rebrakes, throttle, and steering. develop a prototype Automat-

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final piece of a jigsaw. Each of the two main dials

- rev counter and speedo - is deeply recessed in its

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Last year, 10 Buick LeSubres down a stretch of California mo-

of roadway control. The system up to 40mph. On closer inthe so-called driverless car was magnometer in the car fullow-Sitting in the driver's seat of is relatively low-tech, with a spection, the driver is reading like taking a joy-ride with Hal, ing magnets sunk into the road. a newspaper. As the Buick As the steering wheel twitched In theory, the car's computers take control when it enters the freeway, then hands over to the driver at the exit.

Californians increasingly complain that their lives are ruined by traffic. Engineers at the University of California are working on "intelligent transportation" projects, in collabovoice. "Appruaching ration with the California

Karl Hedrick, a Berkeley professor who heads the research effort, said: "We are searchers and private firms to trying to solve a congestion problem as well as a safety problem.



wear a wig and bra. The cross-dressing club voted him man of the year at a ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Photograph: Jim Bourg/Reuters

## Lewinsky affair comes to the boil

By John Carlin n Washington

AS THE crisis in Iraq comes to the boil, so does President Clinhome, with the principal actors in the drama poised to appear before the grand jury in the coming week to answer questions from Kenneth Starr and his inquisitors.

ing President Clinton to urge Ms Lewinsky to lie about an affair, and possibly, according to lawyers involved in the case, Mr Clinton himself.

But while Iraq has shifted the Lewinsky affair momentarily from the front pages, the White House is feeling increasing discomfort at the President's refusal to give the "full, free and unfettered access" to the truth about his relationship with the young woman that he demands from Saddam Hussein about his weapons of mass destruction.

The normally ice-cool Mike McCurry, the President's chief spokesman, cracked under the strain on Monday when he hlurted out to the Chicago Tribune the view that Mr Clinton's cent"; that he believed it had been "very complicated".Otherwise, he said, Mr Clinton

than simply provide flat denials that sex had been involved.

The White House press corps immediately assumed that his remarks marked the beginning of ton's own political crisis at an attempt to present a more ruanced description of the relationship, possibly with a view to preparing the ground for an admission that their boss had been economical with the truth.

But then a rather sheepish-Monica Lewinsky, the former looking Mr McCurry appeared White House trainee who at a White House briefing to declaimed on tape to have had an liver what amounted to a pubaffair with the President, will be lie act of contrition. Describing taking the stand; as will Vernon his remarks in the Chicago Tri-Jordan, the high-powered Wash- bune interview as "a lapse in my ington lawyer accused of help-sanity", he said he had placed himself in the doghouse.

But as every day goes by, it becomes more and more obvious that Mr McCurry was absolutely right; that the relationship between the President and the trainee was indeed, to put it euphemistically, very complicated. How else, for example, to explain the 37 visits Ms Lewinsky made to the White House to see the President after she had stopped working at the White House and had taken up a job requiring sensitive security clearance at the Pentagon?

If it was not sex that was involved, it must have been, as Maureen Dowd of the New York Times observed in a column, that the bimbo from Beverly Hills was advising the relationship with Ms Lewinsky President on matters of high was not "simple" and "inno- policy - how to resolve Asia's economic problems, how to handle the crisis with Iraq. As Ms Dowd remarked, it might be would have spoken out more comforting to know that they freely on the matter, rather only had sex.

### Oprah unseats the courthouse cowboys

THE JUDGE in the matter of the Texas cowboys vs Oprah Winfrey has ruled that a hamhurger may not be libelled, writes John Carlin.

The landmark ruling, which threw into doubt the constitutional plausibility of Texas food defamation laws, was a severe setback for the cattlemen's case against the TV talk-show queen.

They are suing Ms Winfrey, the world's highest paid entertainer, for a remark she made on air in April 1996 about the possible threat of mad cow disease reaching American shores.

During an interview with an anti-meat campaigner, Ms Winfrey exclaimed: "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger! I'm stopped!"

The following day cattle future prices in the Chicago market fell by 10 per cent. The plaintiffs in the case, clearly in awe at La Winfrey's power, said this was no

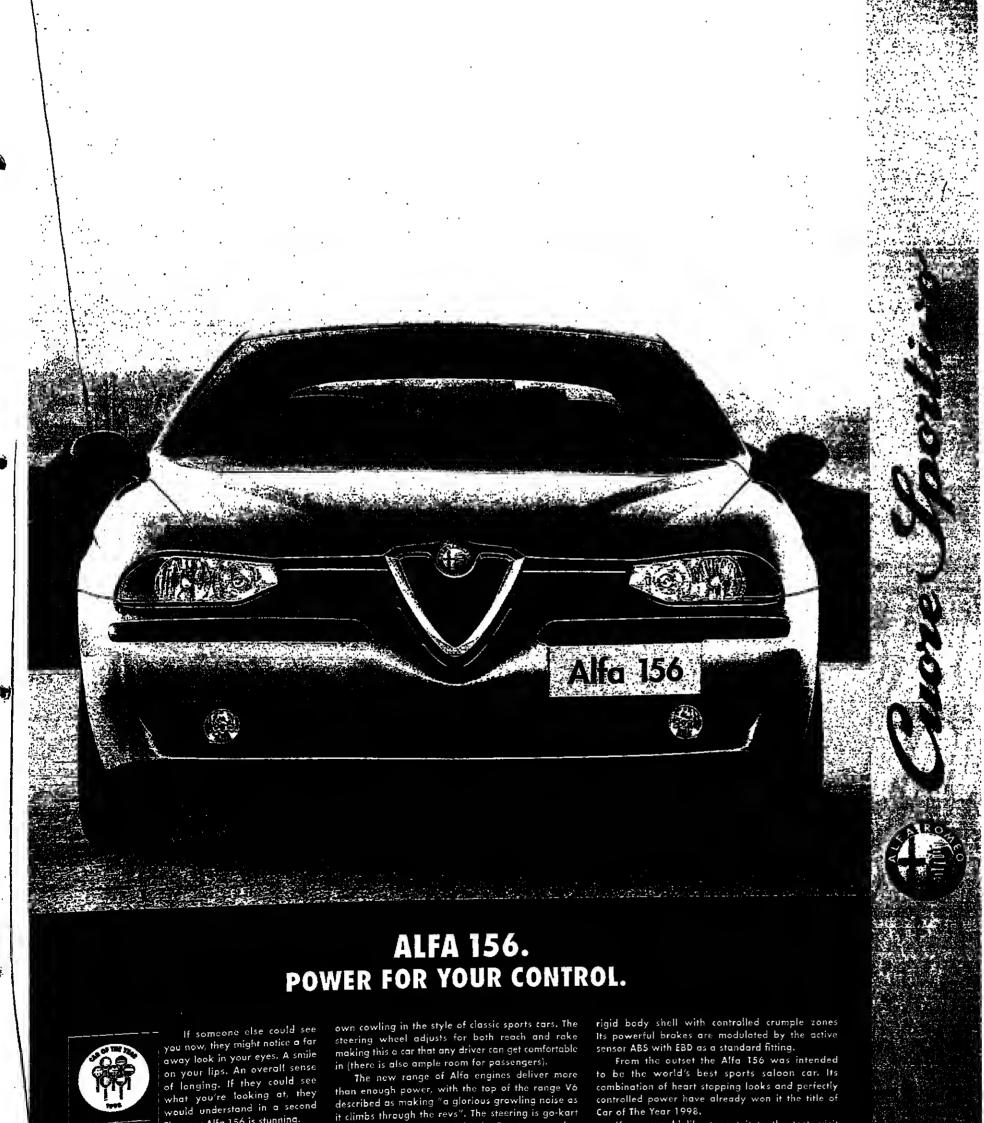
Their case, which is being case to prove.



Winfrey: Landmark ruling

heard in the Texas pan-handle town of Amarillo, rested in large measure on a state law which holds that a hamburger, a sirlom cut, a pork chop, an orange, or a cup of coffee are sensitive, if not sentient, entities that deserve the same legal protection from libel as human beings.

Judge Mary Lou Robinson begged to differ, and the plaintiffs now have a much harder



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## Saddam's palaces to be battleground

The Iraqi leader's many 'residences' may be out of the Arabian Nights, writes Ian Burrell, but Sandringham is far bigger

EIGHT traqi palaces which collectively cover an area of more than 70 square kilometres are set to be the hattlegrounds of the next Gulf conflict.

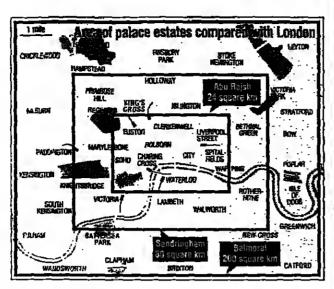
Containing in excess of 1.500 buildings, they are believed to provide an infinite number of hiding places for the precursors of chemical and hiological weapons or the mobile launchers used to propel Scudtype missiles.

For nearly four months, inspectors from the UN Special Commission (Unscom) on Iraq have tried to gain entry to the palaces. But Iraq has consistently blocked access to what it calls "sovereign sites", and has even moved civilians into some of the compounds to form "human shields" against air-strikes.

Three of the palaces are in Baghdad itself, with one taking up four square kilometres of the city centre and including several hundred huildings.

Other palaces are located at Basra in southern Iraq and at Mosul in the north. The remaining three sites are in the Salahadin region, north of Baghdad, with two palaces in Saddam Hussein's home city of Tikrit and another built on a lake at Magar-el-Tharthar.

The latter is said by one former worker to be "like the palaces in stories of Sinbad and Arabian Nights" and around five times as hig as the White House in Washington.



vesterday: "We are not just talking about a marble edifice. These sites have warehouses, garages, barracks, houses and industrial facilities."

A team of Unscom surveyors in Iraq is making an assessment of the scale and significance of the eight sites for extends over 202 sq km. Kofi Annan, the UN secretarygeneral, ahead of his peace mission to Iraq tomorrow,

A senior British military source said last week that one Iraqi palace alone covered an area of nearly 25 square kilometres, it would, he said, cover an area stretching from Hyde Park to Wapping, in east London, and from Regents Park, south to Streatham.

These are not palaces like Buckingham Palace or Balmoral," he said. "They are amazingly opulent with artificial lakes and swimming pools. They have spent a gigantic amount of money on them."

The Ministry of Defence vesterday issued a drawing of the Abu Rakash palace, 60km north of President Saddam's home city of Tikrit. Within the site, which

An Unscom spokesman said is approximately 6km by 4km, arc four palaces, each larger than Buckingham Palace.

However, although Buckingham Palace is only 0.16 sq km, other British royal estates are far larger than the Iraqi palaces. Sandringham is more than 82 sq km, while Balmoral

Since the last Gulf conflict, President Saddam has spent an estimated fibn on the eight palace sites and a further 70 presidential sites.

President Saddam's palace building programme began well before the Gulf war. A Northern Ireland construction company spoke yesterday of how it was involved in the huilding of the administrative palace on the hanks of the Tigris in Baghdad. which was finished in 1991.

Ivan McCabrey. managing director of Mivan of Co Antrim, said that precious hardwoods and lons of marble were imported from all around the world. The palace had 110 bullet-proof windows. "Before he went to war with Kuwait, Saddam was considered a good guy," said Mr McCabrey.



## Annan visit is last chance to settle

By Rupert Cornwell

COUNTING on the "support and prayers" of the Security Council, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, is making final preparations for his make-or-break mission to Baghdad - in the words of the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook last night, "the last chance to resolve this crisis by diplomatic means".

Mr Annan was due to fly from New York to Paris, where he will hold talks this evening with President Jacques Chirac who has been trying in vain to broker a settlement of his own.

But France, though opposed to \_ me constructively", the US am-the use of force, has now warned \_ bassador to the UN, Bill Rich-and Jordan marched against an Iraq that unless it complies with the UN weapons inspectors, it faces certain air anack from British and American forces.

From Paris, the Secretary-General flies on to Baghdad where he will stay until Sunday. This means that any onslaught will not start until Sunday night at the earliest. It could be delayed even longer, since the United States Congress is not scheduled to vote until Tuesday on a resolution approving the use of force against Baghdad. But there is no guarantee that President Bill Clinton will wait that long, if Mr Annan's attempt bas plainly failed,

And he will have precious little room for manoeuvre. Although Mr Annan himself declared his chances of success to be "reasonable" and that the Iragis seemed ready "to engage

ardson, made it clear that US patience with Baghdad's evasions and backsliding had run out.

In the Commons, Tony Blair was equally uncompromising. The success of the Annan trip depended entirely on Saddam Hussein, the Prime Minister declared, leaving oo doubt of the view of Britain and the US that the Secretary-General was going with what amounted to a take-it or leave-it offer. All substantial concessions,

in the view of London and Washington, will have to be made by the Iraqi leader, and that Mr Annan will not be going for a bargaining session. He, himself, summed up his mandate as one of being "firm in substance and flexible in form".

Closer to ground zero of any

attack, the UN announced that it was sending 31 members of its staff in Iraq out of the country. For their part, the inspectors whose search for Saddam's chemical and hiological weapons plants sparked the latest crisis.

"presidential compounds". A formula for UN access to these sites could provide an 11th-hour diplomatic solution to the crisis, and the Egypoan President, Hosni Mubarak, who contacted both Mr Clinton and Saddam Husseio yesterday. claimed to detect an Iraqi "understanding of the situation".

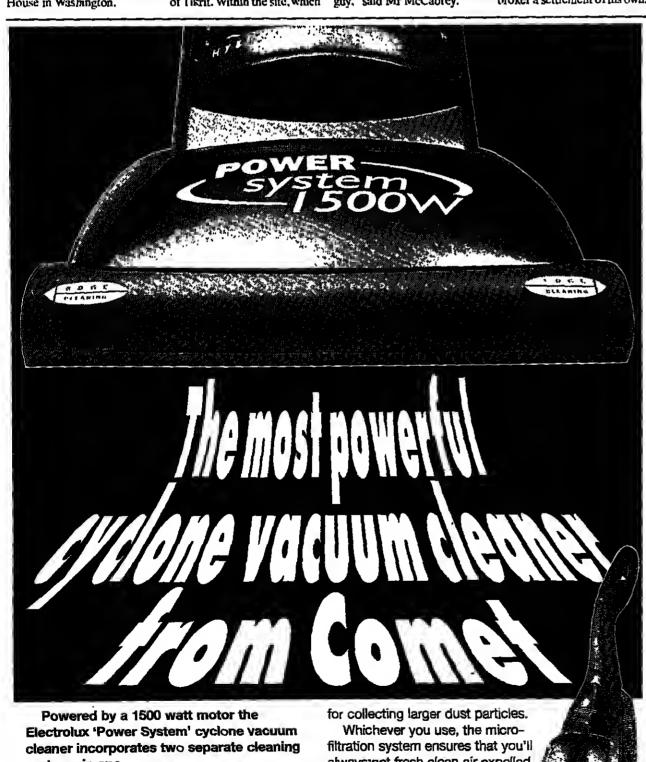
completed their visits to eight

But London and Washington are insisting that no serious strings can be attached to an "Unscom-plus" scheme, whereassault meanwhile, tensions the plants with a toothcomh, but mounted and precautions gath- accompanied by other officials

or diplomats. The team had to have full and unfertered access to the sites. "Our resolve on that is right and immovable," the Prime Minister told MPs.

Earlier the Secretary of Stat: for Defence, George Robertson, was blunter still, vowing that whatever expert doubts on He issue, air strikes would inflet "massive damage" on President Saddam's facilities. Nor would "human shields", as employed by the Iraqi leader suriog the Desert Storm bombnes in 1991, be a deterrence. 'We cannot account for Saddam's uncivilised and quite illegal behaviour" Mr Robertson said.

Meanwhile, Mr Coot last night said that a new UN resolution would be necessary to authorize an attack. It might be better from a legal and politiby the inspectors would go over cal point of view to update existing resolutions, but it was not



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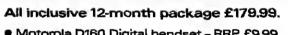
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MOTOROLA

## Roadshow to prepare the nation for war

Byohn Carlin in ashington

ASTHE heavyweights in the Diton administration set off to necountry yesterday on a camain to prepare the United taes people for war against ratione thing they were not goigo do was give expression to enounting doubts in Washighn and beyond about the lugterm value of the projectar campaign.

The Secretary of State public relations war. Mæleine Albright, Defense Stratary William Coben and Wile House national security dser Sandy Berger travelled to Cumbus, Ohio, to address thuselves to Middle America vishe cosy, question-and-answer ion hall" format favoured by the charismatic boss.

fficials said that the US's Big hree foreign policy advisersould be merely expanding on e President's televised addre from the Pentagon on Tuetay, when he presented a list f Saddam Hussein's historill iniquities and made the caschat if the Iraqi leader did not aide by United Nations resolutins "be alone will be to blam for the consequences".

Th President is speaking forcellly and carrying a big stick ut the question be has failed privincingly to address is what excity he intends to do with his biglick if called upon to use it, and hat be hopes the benefits of bihing President Saddam across to bead with it will be.

Mr dnton trotted out his now famiar objective, namely to seriously diminish the threat posed by Iraq's weapoos of mass desruction". But what co the wrds "seriously" and 'significanly" mean? They do not mean, as military officers lave said and Mr Clinton has acknowledged that Iraq's biologial and clemical weapons asenal will be eliminated. Some laqi civilials, on the other and undorbtedly will, and oce the images of dead women ad children are broadcast on

CNN the US will risk being perceived not as the world's po-

liceman but as the world's thug. Senator Rohen Torricelli, a Democrat closely allied to the President, has been touring the Middle East in the last week. Yesterday he said that while enthusiasm in Kuwait for a US-led strike was "palpable", elsewhere Arab public opinion was decidedly pro-Saddam. "Almost by default", he was forced to recognise, Saddam Hussein has won the As for the bombing war, Re-

publicans in Congress are becoming increasingly fidgety. "The President has yet to lay out the specific military objectives he wants to achieve with this missioo and to explain how he intends to reach those goals," said Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican senator. Senator John McCain, a Vietnam war hero, spoke for many when he applauded the "compelling case" Mr Clinton had made for foreing President Saddam to abide by international rules, but criticised him for failing to address the core question; how will the problem ever go away while Saddam remains in power?

Mr Clinton's critics say that any attempt to declare victory on the strength of, say, a four-day hombing campaign that causes only partial damage to President Saddam's power structure, kills civilians, kills US pilots and possibly consolidates Saddam's support at home and in the region would be met with the wrath of Congress and the press.

Critics also note that an air strike could defer further United Nations weapons inspections on the ground indefinitely. "Without Unscom [the UN inspection steam], the whole multilateral process that the US has worked so hard to create in dealing with Iraq crumbles, collapses," a Defence Department official told the New York Times. "The United States will be left to deal with Iraq on its own. I can't imagine that's something

that President Clinton wants."

## 15/IRAQ CRISIS مكذا من ألاصل 15/IRAQ CRISIS Strike crews on target in hours



Ready for action: Crew on board the USS George Washington in the Gulf giving the OK signal for the launching catapult to be test-fired yesterday

Emma Daly reports from on board USS George Washington in the Gulf

roar on and off the flight deck with a thunder fit to waken the dead, it is husiness as usual aboard the ouclear-powered USS George Washington. The five-year-old aircraft carrier left port on Monday after a brief respite and has returned to active duty in the Gulf, prepared if necessary to launch a wave of air strikes against Iraq.

AS TOMCATS and Hornels

"We really are ready to go on our mission if that's what is called for," said Rear Admiral Mike Mullen, commander of the George Washington battle group, which includes 12 other ships and operates alongside the USS Independence, another carrier, and its battle group. The

hut warned that the strike air- large-scale map of the Gulf craft stationed aboard could and a home-made calendar reach their targets in Iraq with- decorated with lingerie. But, in hours of any orders to attack. "I'd really like to see a politi-As the ship has been sta-

tioned in the area since November, its pitots have flown hundreds of sorties over Iraq to enforce the no-fly zone, and know the terrain well. The F-14 radar officer - have even practiced bombing runs over Iraq, to the extent that officers are now training against complacency.

need be," said Lt Bryan Fetter they are primarily to stop the admiral emphasised his ship's standing in the pilots briefing chemical and biological hope for a diplomatic solution, room, walls adoroed with a weapons programme."

cal solution."

Li Fetter (call-sign "Cheese". as in feta) will be charged with finding and locking on to targets in the event of a bombing run and he knows be might inflict Tomcat crews - a pilot and a civilian casualties, "I've thought about that," said Lt Fetter, wbo has yet to fire a shot in anger. "It's something I think about every time, and the conclusion I've come to is: all the targets we "I think we can do the job if are targeting are military, and

er, a Tomcat pilot, admits that every professional wants to use his training but adds: "For us, that's a life or death matter. I stop. The sounds reverberate don't think you're going to find any warmongers."

Life aboard the USS George Washington will not change radically if President Bill Clinton orders an attack against Iraq, since the 70-plus aircraft aboard have been flying 100 sorties a day, armed with missiles and bombs, since last November.

The flight-deck is an extraordinarily noisy and dangerous place. During take-offs, a fearsome catapult burls aircraft af- bombs. Each crew-member in-

His comrade Lt Keith Park- ter aircraft off the tiny runway; landings are noisier still, as a wire cable catches the book of an aircraft and yanks it to a dead throughout the 17-deck ship but anyone passing the engine room where the arresting gear operates is practically deafened by the screech as the cable rips out to catch the

speeding jet fighter. As each aircraft is readied for take-off, dozens of staff scurry about the deck signalling pilots or clearing debris or fixing bombs and arming missiles - including the horrifyingly expensive laser-guided smart

terviewed aboard (and there are 36 women serving on the George Washington, or GW, as it is known) seemed calm and purposeful, aware of their roles as tiny cogs in a vast military machine.

"Their spirits are high and morale is up. They understand their mission," said Admiral Mullen, who defined that mission as ensuring the long- and short-term economic stability of the region, as well as the "diminishment" of weapons of mass destruction.

It is the latter reason that strikes a chord with the crew. If the order to attack comes, "It won't ruin my cruise," muttered one ordnance man. "I just don't think they should be using those

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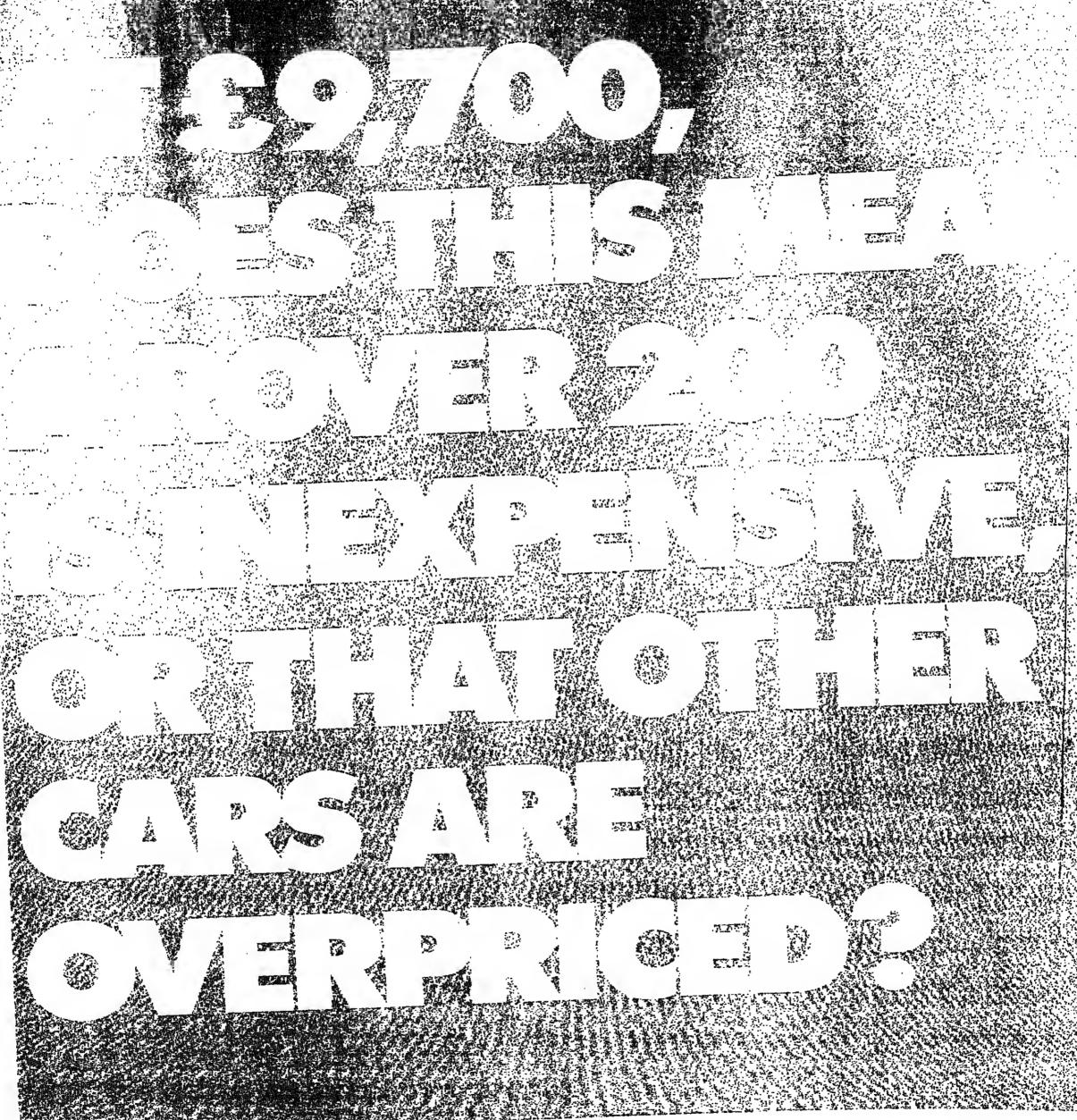
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## Turks plagiarise Amnesty appeal

By Robert Fisk Middle East Correspondent

A TURKISH CYPRIOT pressure group has shamelessly plagiarised an Amnesty document on human rights abuses in Colombia, Indonesia and Bosnia to advertise alleged rape and murder by Greek Cypriols during the 1974 war.

"Turkish Actioo - The Group", which is helieved to have its headquarters in Ankara, substituted Turkish Cypriot names in place of Colombian and Bosnian rape victims in a four-page account of the violent retribution exacted upon Turkish Cypriot women in 1974, the year Turkish troops invaded and divided the island of Cyprus following a coup d'état by the Greek military regime

The original Amnesty paper was an emotional open letter last year from David Bull, the director of the human rights organisation, urging readers to join Amnesty and outlining for them - in graphic detail - the brutal rape of Sonebia Pinzon and her daughter Marcela and an unnamed elderly Bosoian Muslim woman who was sexually ahused by Serbian militiamen. "What do the words 'women and children first' mean to you?" his letter began. "That innocent women and children caught up in some terrible situation beyond their control, must be protected from danger at all costs? That was my understanding too. But 'women and children first' has taken on inal Amnesty version, the sec-

a whole new meaning for me ond rape victim is Sonehia's the subject here at Amnesty In-

The Turkish Action Group's pamphlet begins with these identical words but continues by saying that the (anonymous) author's response "took on a whole new meaning for me since I began reading reports and documents on Cyprus ..." It goes on to substitute Sonebia Pinzon's name with that of the "Derya family".

Here is the Amnesty version: "Don't say 'I can't read this', because there is a purpose to my telling you. If the Pinzon family can get through it, then so can you and I. The [Columbian] soldiers don't waste a second. They have a job to do. It begins with Sonchia. They tear at her clothes ... the stone is cold against her back as they take it in turns to rape her. She whis-pers to her little boy not to look. but he's frightened, he wants to hold his mummy's haod." And here is the Turkish ver-

sion: "Don't say 'I can't read this ... If the Derya family can go through it, so can you and I. Soldiers don't waste a second. They have job [sic] to do. It begins with Mrs Derya. They tear at her clothes ... the stone is cold against her back as they take it in turns to rape her. She whispers to her little boy not to look, hut he is frightened, he wants

to hold his mother's hand." In identical words, the Turks describe the rape of one of Mrs Derya's daughters - in the orig-

since I began reading reports on daughter Marcella. Mr Bull's account of the rape of an elderly Bosnian woman by Serbs states that: "She was forced to stand with seven other women. One of the men, whom she knew, farced his hand up inside her until she bled." The Turkish version claims that a Greek Cypri-

> ot forced an elderly Turkish Cypriot woman (also unnamed) "to stand with two other women while one of the men forced his hand up inside her until she hled."

counterfeit had also turned up on a website served by British Telecom, which told Amnesty that it had "no power" to have the material removed. Neil Durkin, an Amnesty spokesman told The Independent: "We've cootacted a QC, und taken advice, but we were advised that this would cost a great deal of money and would grant this [Turkish] organisation publicity that we would not wish to give them.

There are two ironies to this sad story. The first is that during and after the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, both sides committed human rights abuses, which were fully documented by Amnesty. The second is that the descriptions of rape in the Turkish document are so similar to those in the Amnesty letter that they defy credibility.Like most buoran rights groups, Amnesty uses the Internet. Clearly, however, the opportunities for misuse are iust as great.



Heavy hype: Rock legends Jimmy Page (left) and Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin in Zagreb yesterday to launch a European tour promoting Walking into Clarksdale, their first album of original songs for 20 years. The tour opens in the Croatian city on Saturday

## Soviet Union devised 'men only' anthrax bomb

By Phil Reeves in Muscov

THE SOVIET Uoido, which for decades supplied arms to Iraq, may have engineered a hiological "sex bomb" - a form of anthrax that specifically attacks the core of any army, adult males, That, at any rate, is the

MORNING CONTRACTOR OF THE

ing the worst accident to the history of biological weapons.

17/FOREIGN

Sergei Volkov has been exumining an incident in April 1979 at Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg) in which a cloud of noison escaped from a hiological weapons production plant. The victims, stricken with Inter-

outbreak came from bad beef at a local market. But in 1992 Boris Yeltsin - head of the regional Communist Party when the catastrophe happened -

volved biological weapons. Although the KGB confiscat-

confirmed suspicions that it in-

After interviewing scores of residents, he claims the death toll was close to 1,000, ten times the official count. He also says he has confirmed suggestions that men were three times more likely to contract the disease, and that no children were affected.

Mr Volkov's cause has been

ities maintained that the anthrax managed to obtain documents. a chemist who played a part in exposing Russia's chemicals weapons programme four years ago. In claims which raise questions about the contents of Iraq's arsenal, the two men yesterday said the anthrax germs may have been engineered to attack adult males. Alternatively. tsome other disease, possibly vi-

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1998

## Loo that washes us westers without a wipe

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo

OF ALL the brilliant innovations to have come out of Japan, people, but so misunderstood by that you have a dirty bottom." initial resistance have become a part of life in the West. Now the bottom-cleansing loos sell 2.2 oumbers the gadget described by one foreign resident of Tokyo as "the loo that shoots back".

In appearance, the Washlet is oothing more than a hi-tech lavatory. The secret is beneath the rim where, as well as a heating element io the seat, it contains a small nozzle.

By operating an instrument panel at the side, it is possible called "Using Is Believing", to project between the cheeks a jet of water in a range of temperatures and pressures. Another button triggers an air jet which blow-dries the thoroughly cleansed bottom. Just as offices how nifty they really are".

have become "paperless", so too can lavatories

It was launched in 1980 with the slogan: "Your bottom will like it after three tries. Don't let none is so esteemed by its own people say behind your back the rest of the world, as the Toto The Washlet has quickly be-Washlet. Raw fish, Tamagotchi, come a Japanese institution: the the Sony Walkman - all, after original manufacturer, Toto, has sold 10 million units, and drive is on to export in large million a year at a starting price of 75,000 yen (£360).

Outside Asia, however, they have failed to cause a splash. The Swiss top the league, with 2,500 | friendly. purchases a year, but Americans hay only 5,000, and elsewhere numbers are insignificant.

In response to this humiliation. Toto is launching an aggressive marketing campaign and is planning to install, the gadgets in lavatories at 600 hathroom centres outside Japan

### welcomed in Tehran

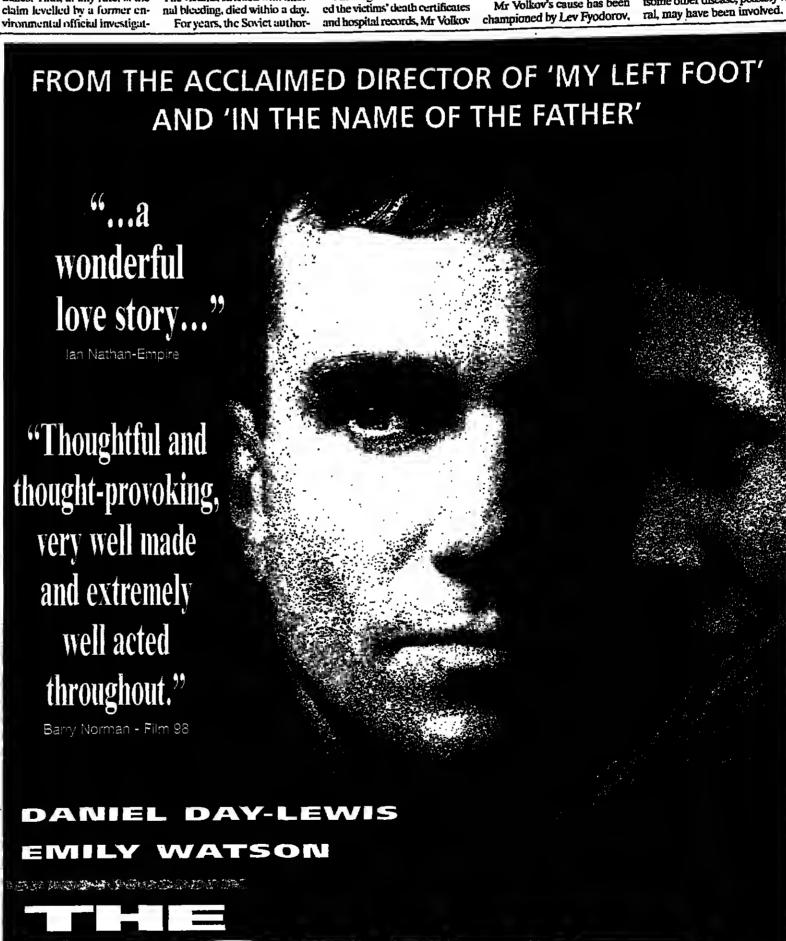
MEMBERS of a United States wrestling learn went shopping at a Tehran bazaar yesterday, attracting Iranian well-wishers eager to have their photos taken with the first American sports team in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

The five sportsmen will take part in a two-day freestyle wrestling competition in Tehran starting today, a prospect that has raised comparisons with a ground-hreaking visit of American table tennis players to China in the 1970s.

"The visit to the bazaar was terrific. People were very

"They said hello to us and asked for our pictures to be taken," said Larry Sciacchetano, president of USA Wrestling, the governing body of US amateur

vrestling. John Giura, a former World Cup champion, said he was thrilled with Tehran, particularly the snow-capped Alborz mounso people can actually try tain range which overlooks the them out and see for themselves | hustling city of about 7 million



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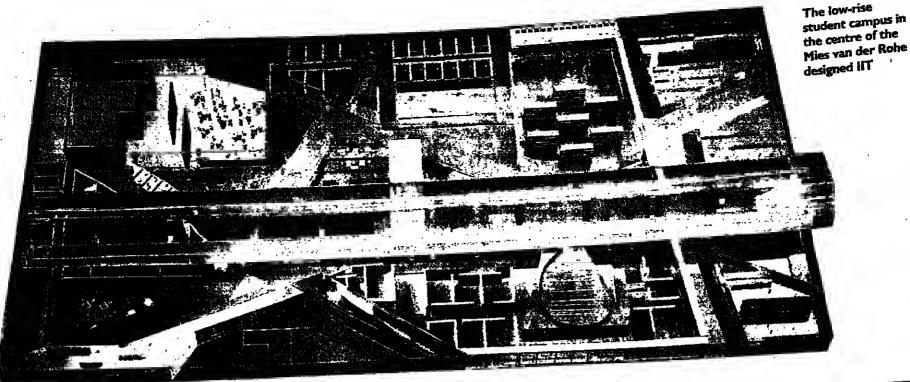


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## Rem's Dutch courage



How do you modernise the arch-modernist? This was the task facing **Dutch-born Rem Koolhaas** when he won the competition to overhaul Mies van der Rohe's Illinois Institute of Technology. Nonie Niesewand hails his free-thinking, innovative solution





scraper, the choice of Rem Koolhaas to build a new \$25m campus centre at the Illinois Institute of Technology is surprising. A one-storey, rectangular building, wrapped in glass walls then covered by a contoured concrete roof, the centre will be surrounded by 18 beautifully proportioned, modular buildings by Mies van der Rohe, who designed and taught at the IIT architectural school, Crown Hall. Now this world-famous statement of modernism, a shrine to its maker, is - dare I say? - to be modernised by the 52-year-old Dutch-based Koolhaas, who won an international competition inviting 56 architects to design a new hullding on the campus. Thirty nine responded and five were shortlisted. As commissions go, it's as challenging as asking Lucien Freud to paint over the Sistine Chapel.

For the city that invented the sky-

Koolhaas admits that Mies dominates the campus but that "the huildings don't really look like Mies, it's almost factory life accommodation, quite forbidding." Worse still, like all sixty-somethings, it's showing its age. "Quite tatty" in the words of John Zukowsky of the department of art and architecture at the Institute, who believes it was wartime scrimping and saving and the lack of skilled labour that affected its weathering. Hence the competition.

Mies is the mid-century modernist who invented that oft quoted definition of the movement, "le more". Post-modernist Robert Venturi topped it with "less is a bore". So how will Koolhaas express the next -ism for the 21st century?

More or less subversively. The ground plan is the criss-crossing 60year-old footpath carved by nomadic students trailing from the dormitories on the east to the lecture theatre on the west. In the intersections created by the trajectories, Rem Koolhaas plans oases that will house shops, offices, meeting rooms, dining rooms, sports facilities. As one competition juror. K Michael Hays, rather unfortunately put it: "Koolhaas has made a very permeable scheme that allows student activities to rub up against each other." All on one low level. Eventually, the project will include new housing, and an overhaul

of the campus grounds. Floating above in a stainless steel tube, 150 meters long, is the elevated railroad, the El, as Chicagoans af-



**Buildings with lift-off from Rem** Koolhaas/OMA: the angular Byzantium flats in Amsterdam, above; the Grand Palais in Lille, right, combines concert hall, convention centre and display space within its rounded form, and helped catapult a provincial town into an international exhibitions centre Photographs: Zbignlew Kosc, Stephen Clulla/Architectural Association



scribes them. It's not the first time that Koolhaas has turned architecture on its side. Or head. Sometimes in his rapid-fire lectures - always over subscribed, with queues round the hlock - slides are screened upside down. "It doesn't matter," says Rem.

Take skyscrapers. The taller the building the thicker the base has to be to support it. But not for Koolhaas. With Ove Arup engineer Cecil Balmond, he configures 300m after which any realisation may be tower blocks supported by slender found wanting," Rem says. But be concrete columns. Sometimes the

fectionately call it. Functionally, towers lean outwards, like the tow- outsize book about scale in the cladding it in a tube cuts the noise. er at Pisa. By clustering and inter-Symbolically, it marks history mov-secting them be can support lift shafts wraps fairytales, anecdotes, jokes, ng on and leaving tracks. How the on wire sculptures and brace tower dictionary definitions as well as subblocks on tailfins like space rockets. The effect is that of light refracting. Never a blank, glassy box.

This kind of free-thinking is why he won. Phyllis Lambert, a leading architectural curator, and a juror, confirmed the judges' unanimous choice of Rem Koolhaas. "You don't clone Mies. You can't clone Mies."

Though many adjectives unswerving, seamless, a master at solutions of collision and intersection, tectonic, episodic, a pragmatist - used to describe Rem Koolhaas are true, listeners at his lectures are struck by the emotion and enthusiasm with which he expresses an idea. About three years agn he nearly closed OMA, his practice in Rotterdam, for lack of work. OMA stands for the Office for Metropolitan Architecture - "Sure it's a very pretentious title, persevered, and wrote SMLXL, an

planning and clients into one volume.

Mediocre is a term of abuse be is unafraid of using, which is wby his proposal for a revamp of the Museum of Modern Art in New York has beaped architectural hate mail on him. Rem began his proposal with a quote from Gertrude Stein that you can have a museum and that you can be modern but not in the same

In a new house he has designed in Bordeaux for a severely disabled client, a huge chunk of the house literally moves up via a vertical shaft through three floors. The middle floor, sandwiched between the cantilevered top floor and a modest ground floor dug into the rock, is all glass - slender, light and almost invisible. His quest to dismantle the gravity that still clings to the 20th century promises to give Rem Koolhass lift-off in the next.

### Back to the drawing board

Architectural competitions are crucial to architects. They can make or hreak their careers. There's nothing new about the idea. Historically, many public buildings have been chosen by competition. Edinburgh's New Town was the resuit of a competition in 1767. So were the Houses of Parliament in 1835, won by Barry and Pugin. But now competition is compulsory for new public buildings in Europe. So Sir Norman Foster won the Reichstag in Berlin and the Millennium Bridge across the Thames to link St Paul's with the new Tate at Bankside - which was itself a prize for the Swiss duo Hertzog and de Meuron. Other foreigners who will build for Britain include Daniel Libeskind with both the Spiral extension to the V&A and the Imperial War Museum in Manchester; and Norwegian Narind Stokke Wiij at the Edinborough Architecture Centre. We still don't know who will win the competition to design Wembley Stadium, but Loeb Parmers came first for the main stadium at the

Sydney Olympics. The Chicago IIT campus contest that Rem Koolhaas won (see left) was a very polite affair. The four finalists who lost had the Office to choose an architect, blow softened by \$20,000 pay- rather than a design. It should have ments. In France and Germany, where public buildings bave to be selected from open competitions, shortlisted architects can be paid between £5,000 and £150,000. In Britian it's seldom more than

Other competitions, such as Scottish Parliament huilding at Holyrood in Edinburgh, are not shaping up so well. No sooner had Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced that it would be built at Holyrood, a World Heritage Site, than he moved swiftly to give "architects throughout Scotland, Britain and indeed Europe, the opportunity to hid for the chance to design the Parliament".

"It's a tender, not a competition,

to find the architect for the Scottish Parliament," Richard Haut, publisher of the weekly architectural and design Competitions listings throughout Europe believes. The first stage will be completed by the end of March, when application forms from design and architectural firms are due at the Scottish Office. These forms are designed to weed out all but the bigger practices. So the first question on the application to the Scottish Office asks how much experience the practice has in designing £50m buildings. Asking this will "disenfranchise many architects", as the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland provocatively asserts.

**But Richard Haut is optimistic** that architects without the £50m building behind them can hitch up with a structural engineer to get in their initial application. Even if the Scottish Office is looking in the first instance "for architects with a proven ability in producing buildings of the quality, complexity, and sensitivity we are looking for on the Holyrood site", the £50m question is hardly in the spirit of their stated intention to hold an international design competition. This procedure will allow the Scottish petition in which architects registered in the UK were invited to submit sketched designs anonymously against a brief.

Holyrood hopefuls will have to get their skates on. Scottish architects suspect that the four practices the process to find a design for the which were engaged - and paid by the Scottish office to make feasibility studies of the potential sites will be shortlisted for the building itself. Eight other names are expected to go forward into the first round, which closes at the end of - 64

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The RIAS has expressed disappointment at the rush - "After 300 years, for a building with an expected lifespan of bundreds of years, what are a few hundred days?" NN



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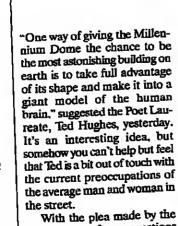
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Government for suggestions for cultural icons to be installed in the Dome, my own proposal is to take full advantage of the Dome's shape and use it as the embodiment of one of the cultural icons of our age. But one Dome alone would not suffice. No, we should duplicate it, thus making it into a giant model of the breasts of Melinda Messenger, The Sun's Page Three Girl for the Thrillennium. The resulting Double Dome (or Double-D Dome) will not only be a fitting celebration of one of the leading icons of our age, but will also mean that there will be twice as much room inside.

And in order to avoid the in-



evitable complaints of sexism, this huge structure will be sup-

the free world, but what do they know? Obviously our traditional roast beef is slightly tainted at the moment, but we still know how to innovate. I'm talk-

had the oven chip (looks like a chip, tastes like cardboard). Then came the micro-cbip (looks like a chip, tastes like cardboard, but is ready in a fraction of the time). And now we have ... the Ketchip! Yes indeed, a chip that tastes like cardboard but has ketchup on the

Freshly-cooked Ketchips will be handed to visitors as they cnter the Dome's Sports area. Since sport is our new religion, it is perhaps best represented in the semi-divine form of Glenn

ing about chips. We've already Hoddle. Whether the England manager will have ascended to full sainthood by the time of the Dome's opening depends on what bappens in France this summer, but in any case, I suggest he should be pictured together with Paul Gascoigne in a kind of Madonna and Child pose. A special water-pumping system will enable a constant

Welcome to the Domes, have a complimentary Ketchip

Yesterday Ted Hughes called for the Dome to be a giant model of a brain. Nonsense, says Tim Hulse, there are some far better, less cerebral, options

baby Gazza's eyes. And speaking of Paul Gascoigne, we of course come to the Teletubhies. They will stand on a hright green hill surrounded the advances in science and riodically hreaks down, visitors know what is.

stream of tears to fall from the

by flowers and the rotting technology during the 20th cencorpses of Buzz Lightyear and the Power Rangers. The size of each Teletubby will be scaled according to popularity, which, in my experience, means that Lala will be one hundred feet tall and visitors should be careful not to tread on Tinky Winky.

Beneath the bright green hill on which the Teletubbies stand will be a narrow tunnel leading to a small, cramped space in which a real-life environmental protester lives 24 bours a day without any of the benefits of

tury. Visitors will have the opportunity to crawl down the tunnel and attempt to persuade the protester to come out.

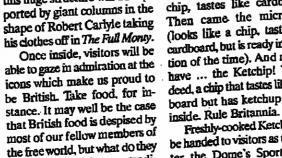
Just beyond the Teletubhies' hright green hill will be a bright green meadow on which Dolly the iconic sheep gambols merrily together with a pig with 16 legs, a cow with 12 udders, a headless chicken and a minister without a portfolio.

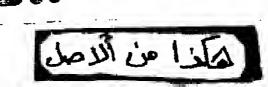
Leaving this celebration of British scientific achievement by means of an escalator that pe-

will enter the Heritage area, in which a beacon of light shines eternally upon a commemorative Princess Diana mug emhlazoned with a gold sticker bearing the solemn words of the royal motto: "A percentage of the proceeds of the sale of this mug will be donated to the Princess Diana Memorial Fund. Or not, as the case may be."

This sombre mood will be lifted, however, by the sight of a huge Union Jack symbolising the rehirth of Britain as a nation. The flag will be held aloft by an honorary member of the English cricket team's travelling barmy army who is suffering from the effects of acute sunhurn and a few too many cans of Red Stripe. The patriotic tbeme will be enhanced by the playing of well-known Britpop classics interspersed at regular intervals by a rousing rendition of "It's Coming Home".

Finally, on leaving the Dome, visitors will be confronted by an enormous video wall displaying one of the world's few remaining mysteries: Tony Blair's smile. Now if that's not astonishing, I don't







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E AND HELL

## Children in the House



While the majority of new MPs have declared their support for improved childcare, the Commons itself has nothing to offer them. By Fran Abrams

DO YOU remember those irritating notices people used to put up in offices, saying: "You don't have to be mad to work here, hut it helps"? Well, the House of Commons crèche debate is a hit like that.

Most MPs agree they would definitely Most Mrs agree they would deninely have to he mad to bring their children to parliament each day. But many of them would happily drape Big Ben with banners demanding the right to do so. For the second time in four years, the

House of Commons is about to commission a survey to gauge the demand for childcare facilities in Westminster, Yesterday 200 MPs tabled a Commons motion welcoming the move and pressing for Parliament to set an enlightened example to other employers. After all, they point out, they are not the only people working

Ask them to discuss the issue, though, and a complex picture emerges. In fact, new Labour seems to be suffering from something of a neurosis about it.

Most oew MPs in the House are genuinely and strongly committed to the idea of improving childcare in Britain, and they whink the House of Commons should lead the way. But many Labour women shrink from discussing it because they fear they are about to feature in yet another headline aboot "Blair's Babes".

And that reticence still remains, especially among women MPs of child-bearing age. For whatever reason, neither Ruth Kelly nor Claire Curtis-Thomas, both of whom have had bables since last May, returned The Independent's calls on the issue of childcare. Nor did Debra Shipley.or Jacqui Smith, both of whom have been reported to be expecting at the moment.

Just after the election, when Female Fever in the House was at its height, to ask whether the House of Commons should have a crèche was to provoke irritation. tral London?" would come the reply. "You media types can't seem to get it into your heads that most MPs live at the othend of the country."

Now, though, a large number of MPs hope there will be a serious discussion about childcare. And with the launch of The Independent's campaign, calling on the Chancellor to make childcare more affordable for all women through next month's Budget, the issue has become particularly topical.

Before the election, childcare for those working at Westminster was to some extent a stick with which to beat the Conservative government. In 1994 a survey commissioned from Research Services Limited found that there was a demand for childcare among Parliament's 3,500 or so staff, though less so from MPs.

A cursory search for accommodation turned nothing up, and so the idea was quietly dropped, although the episode did lead to some staff with children under five being offered £6 per day childcare vouchers. Then someone spotted that there was a rifle range in the House, and a media furore ensued. The fact that the rifle range was in a cellar and therefore totally unsuitable for housing children was ignored, as was the fact that no one had decided pre-

cisely what sort of facilities were needed. Since the election, the atmosphere seems to have changed. Research Services has been asked to update its work, and MPs are taking a new line.

Caroline Flint, Labour MP for Don Valley, gathered signatures for yesterday's motion. While she would not want childcare at Westminster for her three children, aged

nine, 11 and 12, she said, others might. "It isn't about MPs saying, 'What's in it for me?' It's about saying Parliameot should set an example by listening to staff

and trying to meet their needs," she said. Ms Flint, who set up a day nursery at Lambeth Council before becoming an MP and who is a former chairwoman of Working for Childcare, recognises that there is work to be done. But she feels there is a point of principle to be made.

We are saying that Parliament can take a lead and show other employers what possibly can be done," she said.

Different MPs have different needs and Carshalton and Wallington, travels to work on the train each day with his sevenmonth-old danghter, Julia, and would be delighted if he could move her from ber private nursery to a parliamentary crèche. His partner works nearby and takes Julia home when she finishes work.

"We would definitely switch," Mr Brake said. "It would be great to have the flexi-



bility of having someone on sile if there was an emergency, or just to be able to drop in and check she's okay."

He has tabled his own Commons motion, which suggests the Government could act straight away by taking a few places in nurseries run by civil service departments such as the Department of Trade and Industry.

Such facilities would be useless to MPs like Lynne Jones, Labour MP for Selly Oak. When she arrived in 1992, her younger son was two and might have been a candidate for a nursery, she says, but now he is eight Tom Brake, the Liberal Democrat MP for of the time, he and his 15-year-old brother are at school in Birmingham, but this week is half term and they are spending time with their mother in London.

"Tve just taken them to the Planetarium." she said. "It's a nice opportunity to spend time with them, and it's a break for them too. But this is the first year I've been able to do this, because they are old enough now to entertain themselves for half the day."

What she would have welcomed a year or so ago would have been a drop-in facility, or some sort of holiday scheme. And indeed, it seems that such a programme may now be on the cards at Westminster. The European Parliament, which provides both nurseries and holiday play schemes, has been advising the House of

Commons about what might be needed. Of course, they are light years ahead on the continent. There are nurseries in Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Brussels, open until 8pm, and in school holidays children in Brussels and Luxembourg are bussed out own to play sports and take part in oth er activities.

Sarah Whittall, the European Parliament's linison officer for childcare, has been advising House of Commons officials. But she says the nurseries it runs are mainly for staff. "We do have a few members who hring their children, but with the lifestyle they have, it isn't terribly suitable. Moving a child to a different country once a month isn't a good idea," she explained.

not quite as acute at Westminster but there are still many late nights.

There was a debate as to whether we should keep the crèche open late, but really you would have to keep it open all night. For the child it would be totally ridiculous to take them home at midnight," Ms Whittall said.

While Spanish and Italian kids seem to thrive on being up late at night, British pareots like to see their offspring tucked up by about 7pm, so the idea of a late-night nursery would probably not find favour here.

against problems, in particular because there is still nowhere to put it. The grandiose architecture of Parliament may be suited to political couniving and lofty debate, but most MPs agree it is bardly a place for children - though some point out that burgers on the menu and the odd nappy-changing facility would not go

A tie-up with a civil service department

The problem of MPs' working habits is or with St Thomas's Hospital, across the river, has been mooted, although those oreanisations can fill their nursery spaces easily without any help. A oursery in the new MPs office block which is about to be built next door to Parliament has also been suggested, though a Commons' spokeswoman said yesterday that the plans were too advanced to be changed.

With 120 women in the House and many more MPs under 40 than before the election, the movement for change is growing. Meanwhile, though, some MPs are still struggling to come to terms with modern attitudes o parenthood. Ashok Kumar, the Labour member for Middlesbrough South and Cleveland East, signed a motion last year calling for childcare in the Commons. So what did he think should be done about it?

"I think that's for the women to put forward," he said. "It's mostly women who deal with these issues, and we have to think what's convenient for them." Perhaps Tony Blair should go back to basics and start off with a few awareness-raising sessions.

### DILEMMAS

## Approach friendships in a spirit of giving, rather than taking





### VIRGINIA **IRONSIDE**

THERE were two great sulk-Ders in history. One was Achilles who, after Agamemnon had pinched his girl, Briseis, during the Trojan Wars, sulked in his tent and refused to fight; the other was Eeyore, the grumpy donkey in Winnie the Pooh who got even more sulky than usual when everyone in the Hundred Acre Wood forgot his hirthday.

Interestingly, they're both male, because generally sulking is seeo as a female characteristic. Achilles was thought to be womanly because he sulked. And sulking is a typical manipuiative weapon used by people who feel powerless or feel that others aren't taking them seriously - in other words, understandably, women and children.

Salking, with its potent mixture of anger and unhappioess, is something you

Gill finds she can make friends easily but constantly destroys the relationships by finding fault and sulking. She has had to reorganise her life socially and at work to avoid ex-friends she has hurt deeply. She says she was spoilt as an only child, but how can she stop this destructive behaviour?

experience only over personal slights; you wouldn't sulk about the Conservative Party, for instance. And sulking is always damaging to everyone around you, including yourself as I, an arch sulker, know to my cost. It's as if you find yourself exuding poison gas, but gas which unfortunately you have to inhale yourself. Many is the happy dinner party I have com-

pletely ruined by sulking. And the worst thing about sulking is that it's so difficult to get out of by yourself. You feel you've shoved yourself down a railway siding and until someone tows you out - usually by being very kind to you or apologising - you're stuck up a dead end, stifled by your own misery

Gill is right to worry, however. It's highly unlikely that every friend she makes really

puts her down at any time. There are very few sadists around and on the whole we prefer to make people bappy rather than sad or angry. So why does she behave

like this? When she says she was

spoilt as an only child she may be speaking the truth. But "spoilt" in this sense usually means indulged rather than damaged. But the indulgence shown to an only child can be damaging. It can he extremely difficult, if you have no brothers and sisters, to learn the skill of being with other people, and to realise that when they make a chance thoughtless remark or are five minutes late that they're not trying to make you feel small or

Since it's so rarely hapbeen thoughtless, when it hap-sulking, if only to prevent the

quite understandably, as a huge Sulking, however, is also

connected to fear. A courageous person' would stand up for themselves when they felt put upon and sort the situation out on the spot. Sulkers are frightened of showing their anger directly - partly because as "spoilt" only children it was difficult to be angry in a family in which there were no other children on your side against two adults...

felt, can often behave very self-

lor to find out why these feelings arise; she could learn the art of apology, at least, when she's finished sulking; or she could resolve, in future, never to ask what her friends can do for her but rather, what she can do for her friends.

friendship in this giving rather than taking state she may find she never sulks again. But she pened to you that anyone has all that it is - that prompts her

not just to her friends but to

to sulk? I did this and funnily enough

I think few people except only children quite understand the terror that can be involved when being so alone and vulnerable in a family world consisting entirely of adults who. hecause there aren't enough children to make their presence

Gill could go to a counsel-

When she approaches must find out why she has this fault in her system - for that's

pens you interpret the incident, horrible damage she is doing

### WHAT READERS SAY

How about taking preventive action in future and warning future friends of her propensity

it never happened again, but at least my friends would have been prepared for it if it had and could have joked me out of

Gill should see this as a weakness like an illness. If you're epileptic you'd warn friends you might have a fit, after all, so why not warn them about sulking so at least they're prepared and won't take it so personally if it happens. J Flood, Bristol

Glii should grow up fast. She's no longer a child, though she's behaving like one. Why

not try behaving like an adult? She should write to all the frieods she's burt, asking their forgiveness. She should also say that she's now realised it's a pattern which she's trying hard to

She should then say she'd like to meet these friends individually so she can not only

she'll learn a lot from that - but also so she could apologise in person. No, not all the friends will respond immediately, but I'm sure Gill will feel better just by writing the letters and get-

Sulking is usually a very self-destructive, passive emotion indulged in by weak people. You'll get far more respect from your friends and maybe

ting some control back in her

get some of them back. Caroline H, Derby Get some psychotherapy, privately if necessary. If you cannot find out on your own why you are behaving this way, you need professional belp if

you are not to continue this pat-

tern throughout your life. It is currently fashionable to rubbish all forms of therapy/counselling. I self-destructed for the first 35 years of my life - I then went through psychotherapy and frankly, it saved my life. Do it, you won't regret

Sara Bulmer, Lincolnshire

Why continue sulking? What is the connection with being spoilt as a child?

Gill already has a great deal of self-awareness about her behaviour and this will help her understand and change it. The difficulty is that the behaviour was probably an early childhood discuss what went wrong - defence, perhaps against anger or guilt; a defence which has long since become inappropriate to her needs.

Gill recognises her sulking to be cyclical in nature and becoming increasingly detrimental to her life. Gill needs to recognise that she needs to change in order to be able to move on. But old habits die

Gill has made the initial steps by recognising she has a difficulty. She is beginning to take responsibility for herself. However, I think she will need outside help to make further progress. A counsellor will listen and appreciate and understand without giving advice, or minimising what is involved. A counsellor would hear everything Gill says and be non-judgmental. This process might go some way to belping her understand her behaviour and

change it. Nicholas E Gough, Swindon

### **NEXT WEEK'S** DILEMMA

his parents, my sister and brother-in-law, give him free access to the hiscuit tin and Although well-educated

they appear to have a blind spot when it comes to diet, to the extent that one parent eats no vegetables and the other doesn't believe in fruit. Consequently the children are being fed a diet of fat and starchy foods; each Saturday night they go to McDonald's.

They are delightful children and it is breaking my heart to think of the dietary and health problems which are being stored up for the fu- know

My nephew is a plump child; ture. I dare not say anything as we have a good relationship with them and don't want to rock the boat.

> Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send your comments and suggestions to me at the Features Department, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning.

And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me

## Let's raise a glass to Kohl, a man who played the game



**EDITOR: ROSTE BOYCOTT** DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS, 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0t71 345 2435

BY their enemies, ye shall know them. By the time Helmut Kohl arrived at Guildhall last night to receive the Freedom of the City of London, a fearsome opposition of pen-pushers and last-ditchers - had formed. It consisted of the United Kingdom Stop-the-World-I-Want-to-Get-Off Party, a junior lecturer from that home of lost causes, the University of Oxford, and a whey-faced jokesmith from a Tory newspaper whose idea of humour is that Germans would throw the Chancellor out of the window if only they could find one big enough (sidesplitting, ja?). Anti-German sentiment is these days confined to a band of malcontents, reactionaries, hack writers for foreign-owned newspapers, Jingoes and little Englanders. They are boorish yes, but would be worth apotogising for only if Helmut Kohl were not seasoned in the occasional discomforts of democratic politics. To his country's credit, he is.

The war, let's not forget, finished 53 years ago; Britain has been a fellow

member with Germany of the European Union (Community as was) for the past 23. There are - as long as the liberal world order lasts - profound convergences of interest between our two countries. Among . the differences is justifiable British caution over membership of the European Monetary Union. But relations with Germany are in pretty good nick and even if he were not a figure of historic dimensions, the German Chancellor would be an honoured and welcome visitor.

We can, let's hope, dispense with grandiose talk about competing "models". The idea, propagated by a Labour Prime Minister as well as Tory predecessors, that there is a shining and exportable British path to economic salvation is nonsense. British macroeconomic circumstances are currently favourable; beyond that it would he tempting fate to go. Germany meanwhile has 5 million unemployed, which at this stage in the economic cycle is dismaying. A friendly but objective analyst

would fault the Chancellor and his Christian Democrats for a failure of imagination, together with the scierosis in the policy process imposed by German's federal constitution. That same friendly anabst would also register the maturity of German political conversation and the way all parties are seeking a way forward and respect Germany's determination not to throw out the baby of social peace with the bathwater of economic stagnation. When Germans, on all sides, say their country has no appetite for Kapitalismus pur, we are in no position to disagree.

There is moreover a special reason why Helmut Kohl deserves decoration. Britain belped create the entity of the German federal republic; we have an meradicable interest in European peace and stability. We have no choice but to delight in the strength of the vision he has offered his fellow country-men - a positive and peaceful vision, that is, of themselves.

There is, let's not minee words, a

German problem, compounded of geography, economic potency and nationalist sentiment ... the death this week of Ernst Jünger was a reminder of the cauldron's depth. Post war there were ways in which divided Germany might have become a loose cannon. What, first, Konrad Adenauer did was to anchor his country in the West and use membership of the EC to re-present the country's possibilities to itself. Helmut Kohl's significance has been to update the game and run with the ball.

At the heart of that effort is the Franco-German alliance - something which British commentators and politicians alike find difficult to understand. Govemments change in Paris but the liaison continues unruffled. British anempts at seduction, usually perfunctory, leave nary a mark. It is a sign of Kohl's success that were he to lose the federal elections this October to the Social Democrats both their potential candidates - Gerhard Schröder and Oskar Lafontaine - would follow the

well-trodden path to France without demur. There is no question that EMU is the logical continuation of the Franco-German project, which is why British membership is so fraught with difficulties. Yes, it is "political", and for that reason the 155 German economics professors who wrote recently predicting doom and gloom are barking up the wrong tree; the Chancellor, with the French political class, believes that political will can change economic destiny. We in Britain, graduates of the Thatcher school, find that hard to swallow, we are well advised to wait and see.

But there is no denying the historical force of Helmut Kohl's plan, the gobility of his ambitions for melding his proud countrymen into a permanent pact for peace in Europe. That is why mere good neighbourliness requires us to applaud the City Corporation's award to him. If the Chancellor were now to utilise his right as a Freeman to take a drink or three in Threadneedle Street, then prosit!

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

### Gulf crisis

POLITICIANS have a natural reluctance to give clear. straight answers to important questions. It is not clear how we are to destroy Saddam's stocks of weapons of mass destruction and his ability to produce them.

Our very own experts on such weapons, the chaps at Porton Down who know how to produce them and what they can do, have advised the Government on the appalling damage Saddam's weapons can cause. I wonder whether they have also advised the Government of the effects of the bombing of Saddam's stockpiles of chemical and hiological agents and the factories and laboratories in which they are pro-

duced, if that is contemplated? Why have we been given no information about it? I suspect that the effect of this would be to turn our conventional bombs into the most frightening weapons of mass destruction imaginable, hy distributing these agents far and wide among innocent Iragis, our own forces and the populations of neighbouring countries. Before sensible people can make up their minds on what attitude to take, they surely need clear answers to such questions. Professor PETER **ALEXANDER** Farnham, Surrey

THE following considerations seem to us of vital importance in the present Gulf crisis.

First, air strikes against Iraq are unlikely to achieve their objective, whether this he the elimination of chemical weapons production capacity. or the removal of Saddam Hussein from power.

Second, military action will be illegal without explicit authorisation from the UN Security Council. It has given no such authorisation to date, and is unlikely to do so. A Security Council decision requires an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of all five per-

manent members. Third, we cannot expect others to abide by international law if we do not do so ourselves. FRANK BARNABY, former Director, Stockholm International Peace Institute; FRANK BLACKABY, former Director, Stockholm International Peace Institute: MORRIS BRODIE, Ex-Services CND: JAMES DICKENS: Dr DOUGLAS HOLDSTOCK, Secretary and Editor, 'Medicine, Conflict and Survival', MEDACT;

Professor G HUTCHINSON; Professor JAKE JACOBS: REBECCA JOHNSON, Director, The Acronym Institute: Air Commodore A C L MACKIE: MARGARET **OUASS: MARC WELLER,** Deputy Director, Centre for International Studies. University of Cambridge; and others

THE last Gulf War provided adequate evidence that the only effect of military action against Iraq is to bolster Saddam Hussein's position by producing a "spirit of the blitz" which makes Iraqis feel forced to co-operate against the Western world, perceived as their oppressor.

London N7

Nor is it hard to understand why they feel this way when you consider the numbers of civilians killed by air bombardment in the fast war, or the 1.2 million whom the UN estimates have died as a result of sanctions since the last war. Military action will simply bolster Saddam's attempt to portray himself as defender of Iraq.

If we truly wish to help those people to end Saddam's rule we should be providing funding and political support to the coalition of democratic opposition parties in Iraq. DUNCAN MCFARLANE Braidwood, Lanarkshire

> THE only method that will solve the Iraq problem at its root is communication. It is time now, in the teeth of the crisis, to be even holder: to convene a meeting involving all the nations of the Middle East, including all those who have stocks of nuclear, biological and chemical

weapons, and the US. The aim of the meeting should be to address fear: Iraq's fear of Iran, Iran's fear of Iraq. Israel's fear of her Arah neighbours, America's fear of Islamic fundamentalism, the Kurds' fear of annihilation, and all the other massive fears which pervade the region. Until these are addressed, there will be no

Dr SCILLA ELWORTHY Director Oxford Research Group

### Childcare tax breaks

CONGRATULATIONS on your campaign for a childcare allowance. In welcoming your campaign. Liberal Democrats may ask you to make two qualifications.

First, the object must be to hetp those single parents who choose to work, not to penalise those who make the equally legitimate choice to stay at home. It is not the purpose of the state to tell people how to live hut to enable them to make their own choices effective.

Second, we hope that you may give changes in the benefit system priority over tax hreaks. Tax breaks, by definition, can only help those who are already working and those who suffer worst are those whom the cost of childcare prevents from working at all. In theory, Harriet Harman is tackling this problem, but ber changes are bedged about with eligibility conditions so tight that Steve Webb MP, the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Social Security, has calculated -

whole country are entitled to benefit from them.

What we need is to give Harriet Harman some money to put where her mouth is. She might find the Treasury would benefit as much as the single parent. Earl RUSSELL

Liberal Spokesman for Social Security House of Lonis London SW1

Addicted to nicotine

HUGH THOMSON talks about smokers trying to shift the hlame on to those who supplied what they wanted tletter, 18 Fehruary). But the tobacco industry cannot escape responsihility for its products and load it all on to smokers.

People who smoke want nicotine, hut they get cigarettes. The great majority of smoking-related disease is caused by tar, not nicotine. The cigarette is an extraordiparily dirty delivery system for

the drug nicotine. . Tobacco companies have a that only 2,000 women in the .duty to their consumers to

supply a product fit for its purpose. That purpose is to satisfy nicotine addiction, not to cause smoking-related disease.

is an activity freely undertaken,

and that smokers thereby as-

by cigarettes, it was withdrawn

Up to now, the tobacco industry has manifestly failed to reduce the hazards of cigarettes. Because of the constraint on choice imposed by addiction, it is hard to argue that smoking

> sume responsibility for the consequences. Leaving addiction aside, the manufacturer is still responsible for the product. When mineral water was found to be contaminated with trace amounts of benzene, far lower than those routinely delivered

from sale until the problem was rectified. MARTIN JARVIS Imperial Cancer Research Fund

Empty rhetoric

London WC2

THE phrase "You'll have had your tea" does not come from Muriel Spark's The Prime of

Miss Jean Brodie, as Irvine Welsh claims ("Choose theatre, get ecstatic", 16 Fehruary). The phrase is an old and wellknown piece of Edinhurgh

PRIESTLEY

I heard an interesting variant of it from Professor Norman Stone. As a boy, Stone was taken to visit an aunt in Morningside, where he was given (in his words) "a slice of ham that you could see the plate through". After he had wolfed this down, the hostess took the plate away, saying "Would Norman have liked some more?" Stone described this kind of phrase as "the rhetorical negative".

DAVE DENNISON Edinburgh

### Mission of hope

I WONDER if anyone has ever thought of sending a posse of missionaries to Northern Ireland in the hope that they might yet bring Christianity to that troubled country? GRAHAM DON

Religious freedom

RABBI Shmuley Boteach finds the proselytising activities of Nick Howard towards Jews offensive to the point of "spiritual Nazism" ("Howard's son tries to convert Oxford Jeus", 1S February). I'm not quite sure what his objections are.

Does he want a fundamental change in religious freedoms in this country? Restraining adherents of any particular religion from dehating or discussing their beliefs with members of another religion sounds like a particularly permicious piece of censorship.

Perhaps Rabbi Boteach feels that Oxford undergraduates are incapable of making their own decisions when confronted with alternative views. and should be protected from indulging in independent thought. If this is so, what sort of education is Oxford

offering? Perhaps the simplest answer to all this is to assume that the Jewish students went along to Howard's meeting because they wanted to. PHARRISON

### Embarrassing humour

PAUL McCANN asks (17 February): "Fresh from taking the bad behaviour from Men Behaving Badly . . . whatever will the Americans do to Basil and Syhil?"

What they will not have to !concern themselves with, as they run through the Faulty Towers ideas, are references to hreaking wind, willies and all the other material which now passes for humour because it makes audiences laugh, albeit more with embarrassment than

amusement. Am I one of only apparently half-a-dozen men in Britain who left the material currently being peddled by the BBC. behind us when we left the fifth form?

TWLILLICRAP Phymouth

### Angelic challenge

HOW long will it be, I wonder, before an attempt is made to climb the Angel of the North? Will the wings end up being painted in the black and white stripes of Newcastle or the red and white of Sunderland? It seems an awfully inviting challenge. ROBERT CROWTHER

Witnex Oxfordshire

"But such has been the demand for

these Diana stamps that they have ex-

tended the season through the whole of

February, and you can get Diana First Day

Covers stamped from now till the end of

the month. This has never been done for

anyone else. But for Diana the first day

has become a month long. Isn't that a mir-

acle? To have a First Day last a whole

"No," said the orange lady. "It's a load

### From the miracle of the Princess of Wales there flows a true wonder



"HAVE you seen those new Camilla stamps?" said the man at the bar the other

"Have you gone mad?" said the woman with orange hair. "Camilla stamps?" "Do you mean the Diana stamps?" I

"No," said the man. "I mean the Camilla stamps." "There are no Camilla stamps," said the orange lady. "Unless the Togo Republic

has issued some." "No, there aren't." said the man. "Not yet. But it is not impossible that there might be one day. If Diana stamps, why not Camilla stamps? That is the point I was

"It's Diana's last revenge," said the orange lady. "She's done it again. You've got

to hand it to her." "Done what?" I said. "Did I miss something? What has Diana done?"

the orange lady. "Diana has been dead for nearly a year, and she's still front page news. They can't get rid of her. And now she's back on British stamps, ten times the size of the Queen. They must have thought they'd got shot of her after the funeral, but

she won't go away." "Got shot of her?" said a man called Jim. "Are you one of those who maintain that there was a Royal Family conspiracy to have her assassinated?"

"Of course not." said the orange lady. "The Royal Family couldn't manage anything so complicated. The Royal Family can't get anything right. They can't even work the fire alarms at Windsor Castle. How on earth do you think they'd manage an assassination?"

"It would make a change, though," I said. "For a royal family to organise an assassination, I mean. Historically it's always

"Edged Camilla off the front page," said heen the other way round. People have always assassinated royals. Nice for a royal to assassinate someone."

"Come off it," said the man called Jim. "Henry VIII spent most of his life assassinating people. Sometimes he married them first, sometimes he didn't."

"The one thing that always amazed me about the Diana business," said the orange lady, ignoring all this, "was the way everyone urged the Royal Family to do their grieving in public. Why did anyone ever assume that they were grieving at all? For years Diana had been driving them potty. They just wanted her out of the way. Then . suddenly one day she was out of the way. I should think they all put on funny hats and ran round celebrating. The reason they didn't grieve in public was that they were all partying in private."

"Allegedly," said the landlord, who gets nervous sometimes when the talk

starts to get dangerous.

"Thing that amazes me." said the man called Jim, "is why they haven't called for Diana to be made a saint. If they can make Rupert Murdoch a saint, surely they can do it to Diana?"

"Point one, they haven't made Mr Murdoch a saint, only papal knight or Swiss Guard or something," said the orange lady. "Point two, Diana can't be a saint until a miracie has happened. And there haven't been any Diana miracles."

"Oh, yes, there have," I said. Everyone turned and looked at me.

amost as astounded as if I had offered to buy a round. "It's to do with these Diana stamps," I said. "You know they came out on

February 3rd?" "Take your word for it." "So first day covers were all stamped

on February 3rd."

"So, what would you call a miracle?" I said. "To have Camilla Parker Bowles fea-

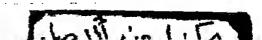
"That's normal."

month?"

of baloncy."

tured on a stamp," said the man at the bar, "All right, all right," I said, fearful that the whote conversation would start all over again. "What would you all like to drink?"

"My God he's buying us a round !" said the orange lady. "It's a miracle!"





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RUPERT CORNWELL TAKING SIDES

FOR a man who runs a country of 17 million souls with a wrecked economy and an enfeebled military, who daren't spend two consecutive nights in the same bed, and who by no stretch of the imagination is a threat to world peace, Saddam Hussein isn't doing too badly. He has turned the world's eyes upon Kofi Annan's mission to Baghdad as they were upon Chamherlain when he went to Munich. He has divided diplomats and military strategists, not to mention the United Nations Security Council. He has also demonstrated that when push comes to shove, Britain will always choose America over Europe.

The daily press releases from the Foreign Office proclaim our presidency of the European Union, and unblushing ministers wear ties with its garish starfish logo. As far as Iraq policy goes, however, the matter was dispatched on the sidelines of a foreign ministers' meeting in Panama (which half the foreign ministers didn't even attend).

Now a common EU stance on Iraq was never on the cards. But subconsciously it's almost as though there's been a heave of relief: enough of quarrels over such abstrusities as Euro-X, enlargement and the rest. The "special relationship" with the US lives again in the field where in fact it has never died, defence and intelligence. Perish the thought that this most militaristic of nations just likes a good war, but as a result of its reduced circumstances has to tag along behind the US to have one - that way an aircraft carrier and a couple of dozen strike aircraft buy us a ticket to the big leagues. Tony Blair talks Europe, but like every recent British prime minister since Ted Heath, he has given his heart, wisely or unwisely, to Washington. In this case, unwisely.

The Anglo-American alliance plots war, unmindful of the absurdities. Military force ought to be only employed as a last defence of paramount interests - in this case the security of the West's oil, and the furtherance. of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Now the oil argument which underlay the last Gulf War (Kuwait would today be languishing unnoticed as Iraq's nineteenth Annan. Si vis pacem, para bellum, and one province had it produced dates) simply does not apply. Oil prices are standing at a fouryear low - and that with only a fraction of Iraq's potential production reaching the market. Nor, unlike his annexation of Kuwait, can Saddam's present behaviour remotely be construed as a threat to the key world producer, Saudi Arabia.

As for the wider Middle East, an attack against Saddam can hardly avoid making matters worse. If we "win," and somehow destroy his grip on his country, it might simply break in pieces, a prospect that appals most of its neighbours. Meanwhile, Britain knows the glaring asymmetry between US attitudes to Iraq and Israel (that other serial ignorer of UN resolutions) simply risks inflaming Arab, and especially Palestinian, feelings. Suicide bomhings, reprisals, accelerated Israeli settlements - the whole poisonous cycle of hatted would only accelerate. But Britain keeps mum.

Ah yes, it will be pointed out, but what about the chemical and hiological weapons at the heart of the fuss; these must go, to protect the region from his murderous designs. To which one replies: What about the Anglo-American doctrine of deterrence? Saddam may be obsessed with "honour," and dream of being an Arah Nebuchadnezzar who crushes the Israelites. However he is not insane. Seven years ago, he possessed far larger stocks of chemical and biological weapons. But he dared not use them then because he knew he would be repaid in kind, and he dare not use them now. One drop of anthrax released, and retribution would be merciless. One CW or BW warhead against Israel, and Iraq would he a smoking hole in the ground.

But of such considerations we hear nothing. One merit of Britain's instinctive siding with the US in frought moments is that, by doing so, we quieten isolationism's call, and remind America it has real friends - a case of Britain not so much choosing between the US and Europe, as functioning as a bridge hetween them. For without military support from its European allies, would the US have bothered to liberate Kuwait in 1991? And even if it had, its feelings about such fair-weather friends would not have been tender. Who can blame those Congressmen who make active European backing for this Iraqi mission a condition of continuing US help in policing the peace in Bosnia? And can Europe dispense with the transatlantic Alliance? The answer, as Bosnia shows, is an unqualified "No".

This Britain understands better than anyone. But the real friend also has the privilege, nay the duty, of saying awkward things in private. Maybe Tony Blair did raise a few such qualms during his triumphal progress through Washington this month, but there's been scant sign of it since. Only the edgy body language of some Foreign Office officials betrays doubt in high places. Otherwise, nothing but bravura from new Labour's untested global warriors. Yes, we can inflict "massive damage" on Saddam's facilities, George Robertson assured yesterday, brushing aside even the commander of US air forces during the Gulf War, who cautioned that only 20 per cent of the sites might be neutralised.

. Mr Robertson of course was warning Saddam Hussein to expect no favours from Kofi can only hope this is part of a cool, unblinking endgame that carries the day by diplomatic means. But the odds are on a shooting war. And when it's over, it is bard to imagine Britain emerging with much credit in the EU it professes to lead. Europe's eternal suspicions about Britain will have been confirmed.



From Westminster Abbey (right) to St Margaret's: Enoch Powell's funeral processes through the heartland of the Church

## How the Church nearly lost its way over the death of Enoch Powell



PAUL VALLELY **ESTABLISHED** VALUES

IN THE END they had roped off the south transept of Westminster Abbey so that you couldn't get to where Enoch Powell's hody had been placed for its "lying in" the night before his funeral. "It's not before the High Altar," a red-robed Abbey divine said, a little too anxiously, "that privilege is reserved for members of the Royal Family and Abbey clergy." It was not in the Lady chapel, for that was reserved for members of the Order of the Garter, and John Enoch Powell was elevated no higher than the rank of privy counsellor. Rather it was in the chapel of St Faith, just off Poet's Corner.

Powell, who was inter alia an amateur versifier in the mode of his bero A E Housman, would have enjoyed that. Indeed he would no doubt have allowed himself a wry little smile over the dress by Lord Biffen yesterday whole fuss that welled up over so delicately under-stated it, the propriety of whether so notorious a political figure as he should have been accorded the sad husiness exposed one of the honour of lying, in state or otherwise, in such a shrine to British nationhood. It has been an ar- tres around the question of chetypally Powellite row, con-

fusing as it did, rules and reasoning with a more subtle political reality. Had he been alive Powell's celebrated inexorable logic, preceding as it did from a iumble of incompatible premises - he thought nationalism and free-market econumics were compatible - would prohably have led him into a muddle, just as it has done this week with the Church of England.

The red-rubed divine continued. "You see, he's been allowed there not because he is a national politician, but because he was a warden of the adjoining parliamentary church of St Margaret's and was a rugular communicant at the Abbey." People in that category are put in the chapel of St Faith -a third century martyr whose name is invoked by soldiers. prisoners and pilgrims and her chapel at Westminster Abbey is the one which is, in its tourist turmoil, reserved for private prayer. It is there that morning prayers are said and where members of the Abbey staff have, for the past 20 years, been

the inquiry desk. "Even me." The Abbey staff were clearly under orders to back-peddle furiously since Britain's immigrant community, and those who feel hurt on their behalf. made such vigorous protests about undue honours being accorded to a man whose public life was, as his funeral ad-

allowed to lie in their coffins the

night before their funeral. "Any

of us could lie there," said the

helpful young woman behind

"somewhat turbulent". Small wonder, for the whole profound faultlines in the Church of England, which cenwhat is the role of an established church? This episode has served only to add ammunition to the armoury of the forces pressing for disestablishment.

The confusion of roles is bound up with ambivalence: the Church of England wants to enjoy the protection of the state, and draw upon its mystique, but then it wants to retain autonomy when that seems to suit it better. The questions it cannut seem to answer are these; Is the Church a national institution which ministers to the people as a whole, or is it a pastoral agency that concerns itself primarily with ministering to the needs of individuals? Are the imperatives of political symbolism greater than the needs of the Powell family?

Powell himself would have understood the broader agenda, His faith, said Biffen, was "grounded on the Church of England whose doctrine and historical role he embraced". It is through a grasp of the significance of that "historical role" that it is possible to distinguish between Powell the man - who is due all the solemnities and solace of the Church - and Powell the historical figure, who does not merit ecclesiastical endorsement.

Much has been written since his death about his "rivers of blood speech on immigration and we have been routinely told that he did not actually use the phrase (which was in fact about "watching a nation husily engaged in beaping up its own funeral pyre". He called for immigration to be reduced to "negligible proportions", and he demanded the "urgent" encouragement of repatriation. Without it the race problem in Britain by the end of the century would be "of American

proportions". It was an apocatyptic vision he refused to temper with any appeal to the traditional English virtue of

tolerance. With a single speech Enoch Powell blew away the British consensus on race relations and gave legitimacy to much racial bigotry that would otherwise have been too ashamed to show its face. The damage would endure for generations. It was a speech of which, in the decades that followed, he retracted not a single word. All his other merits - as a scholar, а poet, п soldier, a parliamentarian, and an exponent of "sound money" - lived ever in the shadow of this dark deed.

An established church must make judgements in the face of such political realities. The forces of disestablishment are growing. Tony Blair's exercise of his right to reject the candidates chosen by the Crown Appointments Commission for the bishopric of Liverpool has strengthened the arm of those who protest that the Church of England must now rehel against its status as little more than a department of state, with a clerical monopoly that could be privatised just like British Rail or British Gas.

The bald fact is that theologically there is not much of an argument against disestablishment. Those who oppose it take refuge, like the Archbishops of York, David Hope, in the Churchill's). Bul he did speak realisation that: "Establisbment is a deftly woven tapestry. Once you start to pull out this thread and that thread, the question is how much remains." Advocates of disestablishment, such as Tony Benn, agree. "It could even destroy the Privy Council." be has said, gleefully.

The key argument for the antidisestablishmentarians is

more elusive. It resides in something mystical, even transcendent, which speaks to the nation's need to acknowledge that there is more to life than consumerism and self-interest. It is the acknowledgement of the spiritual dimension to life, which is why establishment finds support among many Muslim and Jewish leaders too. The Church of England, with its formal mechanism for rites of passage - hatching, matching and dispatching - affords some kind of a collective point of contact in a world of inse-curity and instability that seems increasingly stripped of its psychological anchors.

Purists will say this is not what the Church is for. But to reject the public's vague spirituality as mere nostalgia is part of the naïve arrogance that has got the Church into the doldrums it is in today. And if the Established Church is to speak for the nation it must make political decisions, such as that Enoch Powell could have Jain more appropriately in St Margaret's than in the Abbey itself

Before his funeral yesterday Enoch Powell's coffin lay overnight before the image of a small half figure of a Benedictine monk from whose lips issued a scroll with the words: Me quem culpa gravis permit erige virgo suavis

Fac mihi placatum cristum delasque reatum (From the burden of my sore

transgressions, Sweet Virgin deliver me. Make my peace with Christ and blot out my iniquity).

The Church may pray that for Enoch Powell, the man, this will come to pass. But when it appears to seek to absolve Powell, the politician, from the judgement of history the possibility of disestablishment comes a step closer.

## New York, New York, it's still a helluva town - just don't 'over-share'



I SPENT LAST WEEK IN NEW York, interviewing several grizzled celebrities. I had Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York, explain to me how supporting the death penalty was now considered "a liberal position" in America, Elmore Leonard, supreme fetishist of the Magnum .45 and the Browning automatic, told me that if he had his way, these awful handguns would be banned in the States, as they are in the UK. And I made Joseph Heller cry by asking him about his relationship with his mother. What else, now that we have strayed into Name-Drop Land? Oh yeah, I stood beside Francis Ford Coppola at a party at the Tribeca Grill (owned by Rohert de Niro) as the ursine patriarch of Zoetrope studios embraced various elderly actors. And I sat with my face precisely six inches from the end of Woody Allen's clarinet, as he swung into "Jambalaya", the Carpenters' swamp-foxtrot celebration of Cajun soup.

Allen has been playing with Eddie Davis'a jazz band for years now, and his public appearances are regular enough to appear on tourist itineraries. He used to "sit in" with them at Michael's puh, where a crowd would come to gawp at the specky auteur every Monday evening. Lately, though, the band have shifted to (unannounced) gigs at the classy Carlyle Hotel on the Upper East Side. The audience was full of cool out-of-towners, desperate not to be thought of as star-watchers, but as bona fide trad-jazz fans. Beside me a chap in Karl Lagerfeld ponytail

esque trophy girlfriend were regretting they'd ordered support. as the remains of their prawnsin-salsa sat congealing on their plates over the next hour.

For the rest of us, it was an

hour of rapture. I'd assumed

that Mr Allen played clarinet the way Bill Clinton plays saxophone. Not a hit of it. He performs like a devotee, like a zealot, like he practices 12 hours a day. He swings through "Shake That Thing", he tootles in and out of "Baby Face", he gets all gathered and intense for "All That I Ask is Love". The band is a mix of New York faces, from the Ivy League smoothie on slide trombone to the boyish matinee idol on slap bass. Veins stand out on the hrow of the trumpet player as he wahwahs away with a plastic hat over his instrument. They hlend together like a complicated dance troupe, while giving the impression of not knowing each other well. Eddie Davis, the banjo player, calls the tunes, in a tone of puzzlement. "I'll try it," says Woody, sotto voce, "though I can't remember it." And off they go again, harmonising immaculately. Between solos, Woody sits, looking suburban and crestfallen in his pink shirt, his apologetic corduroys and meek little socks, the clarinet balanced on his chair like a bottle of wine. Is he enjoying himself? Does he mind us staring, and wondering about Soon-Yi? Why does he do it?

After an hour, most of the band disappears, leaving Woody playing duets with Eddie Davis. They play "No- most pretentious crap ever ap-

You're Gone". You look at the two men, the myopic Woody and the chuckling Eddie beside him - Eddie the hanjo man, fat as Buddha, hairy of arm, capacious of trouser, wholly delighted by the music - and you realise how much the film legend needs the jazzman. It occurs to you that, amazingly, this jolly roustabout, his head full of a million songs, is a person Woody has aspired to become for years.

UP AT THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Art, beside Central Park, one has a rare chance of seeing some spectacular Mughal carpets or inspecting the sketchbooks of Jackson Pollock (1937-1941) in their glory. Regrettably, le tout Manhattan is ignoring both worthy exhibitions and descending in a lowing herd to the Versace show in the basement. The display of the late Gianni's most outrageous frocks has entranced the city's aesthetes and fashion victims alike, and they mill about, swooning in front of the glass cases, cooing at the Whaaam! dress modelled on Ray Lichtenstein's pop-art explosion, the figure-hugging Italian Street-walker sheaths, the stunning pink, slashed and ruched evening gowns, and the wild shores of fantasy clothes - the Lycra "unitards" and halloon pants, the Devil outfits and appliqué gems and peasant-panto costumes full of rags and patchwork. Whew. The only thing wrong with this startling show is the accompanying text, the

and his Christy Turlington- Down and Out" and "After jersey. It gushes about Versace's "graphic truculence", his "Promethean redefinition of fashion as sexual and media energy". And if you thought the great conturier liked long cutaway skirts in neo-classical togafolds because they were dead sexy, think again. "An enthusiast of history, Versace sought no replicas or simulacra," drones the text. "Rather he read history into the present and rendered the past as pertinent to his unending perception of the new". Donnez-moi une fracture, as we say on the Paris catwalk.

> INVASIONS OF YOUR EMOTIONAL space are everywhere in Manhattan, like the smell of roasting pecan nuts. The chances of being mugged in midtown have dwindled to nothing, but you can still encounter, as I did, a young black girl emerging from a doorway, clutching your arm and saying, "I'm from Wash-ington and I have Aids, Can you help me with a meal?" Of course you give her money; but this is a classic case of what's now called "over-sharing", ie those moments when somebody tells you slightly too much about their intimate secrets (bankruptcy, messy divorce, chronic diarrhoea). What's remarkable for New York is that you're now allowed to say you'd rather not know.

On the subway, your emotions are stirred by advertisements which have a built-in pathos. Suffering wives too poor to shed a horrible spouse are advised how they can go about it without breaking the body Knows You When You're pended to a few yards of silk and attorney", it promises, "Ring 1- ing her mark.

800 DIVORCE". Next seat along, a poster inquires, "Is life in your face?" and suggests, "Reach out for someone who really cares about you", though it's hard to see how the people manning the phones at Covenant House can have many personal feelings about the strangers who ring up. Lastly. "Do you know who the father is?" asks a sad little hoarding. "The New York Immunogenetics Center is New York's only paternity testing lab. Ring 1-888 DAD-SEARCH".

THE CITY'S YELLOW TAXIS HAVE

acquired a new hazard: the taped celebrity message. In an initiative brought in last year by Mayor Giuliani, all cabs now carry recordings by TV stars telling passengers to wear seat belts and so forth, and adding cute little messages at the end. When you sit inside, the voice of Joan Rivers tells you to buckle up, "and by the way darling you look gorgeous. That colour is just you", or the fruity Mitteleuropean tones of sexologist Dr Ruth Westheimer advise, "and get a receipt from zer driver. I'm glad ve've had this liddle chat." After the first 20 times or so, the cheery saintations from Jackie Mason or Placido Domingo start to grate on you. But New Yorkers have recently discovered that every cab's licence plates carry a code number telling you which celebrity voice is playing inside. So if, like me, you really can't stand bearing Eartha Kitt saying "and have a purrfect day. Girmowwill ..." ever again, you bank. "Finally, an affordable can steer clear of all cabs bear-



Hundreds of tigers are still being illegally slaughtered by poachers throughout Asia. Every day worldwide, two wild tigers die to satisfy an appalling trade in tiger bones and fur, often leaving behind helpless cubs to starve. We are offering you the chance to provide a secure future for an orphaned tiger.

ax is a rare indo-Chinese tiger who was orphaned as a small cub when poschers killed his mother. The illegal tiger-bone industry for Chinese medicines could push the tiger to extinction by the year 2000.

Max would have perished without their mother's care but he was rescued in time and now lives in a natural habitat sanctuary in Thailand. Ha will always depend rin human care - will you help us to help him and fund tiger conservation world-wide?

Foster Max and help provide the attention he needs, ensure other orphan cubs can be rescued and fund vital tiger protection projects. For just £14.95 (of which £10.00 is your donation), you'll receive a gift peck including: ■ A personalised certificate ■ A colour photograph of Max ■ A history of Max's buckground ■ A tiger fact sheet ■ An exclusive tiger T-shirt

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**Professor Sir Harry Hinsley** 

IN 1943 Harry Hinsley was chronicled by him as editor-in- any intelligent historian could sent to Washington to negotiate chief of the monumental British the "Brusu" codebreaking Intelligence in the Second World agreement with the United War (1979-90), and the contri-States government, the agreement which committed both parties to exchange all intelligence information in their possession relating to the Axis powers. As well as preparing the emissary for the complexihes and double dealing of the academic world in which he was to spend the rest of his mission to a 24-year-old undergraduate serves as a striking source?" received the one-word reminder of the opportunities that the Second World War provided for highly intelligent individuals from very humble backgrounds.

The son of an employee of the coal department at the Walsall Co-up and a school caretaker. Hinsley had come up to St John's College, Cambridge, as an Entrance Exhibitioner in 1937, and two years later was awarded a First in Part I of the Historical Tripos, Then, with Part II in view and no doubt another First on the cards, one day in the winter of 1939-40 he was asked to call on Martin Charlesworth, the Fellow of St John's to whom, together with F. E. Adcock at King's, the Cumbridge end of the recruitment process for the Government Code and Cipher School had been entrusted. So Hinsley went to Bletchley, and for the time heing History went to pot.

heady days Hinsley later recorded in Codebreakers: the inside story of Bletchley Park, the volume he cdited with Alan Stripp ments of "BP", since they were earlier age, he took the view that

bution to the Allies' military operations provided by the breaking of the Enigma cipher, are now common knowledge.

Hinsley's particular activity at Bletchley was the study of German naval wireless traffic. This hrought him into contact with Admiralty Intelligence, a liaison so intimate that a signal life, the entrusting of such a from Home Fleet querying some item "What is your reply "Hinsley". Years later sented to this and nodded grave-Hinsley's "How I Sank the Bismarck" (which was the undergraduates' title for it, not his, or not entirely his) was a regular show-stopper at Cambridge college history societies.

In 1946 he married Hilary Brett-Smith, whom he had met at Bletchley and in whose serene company he returned to Cambridge to St John's where he had been elected to the Fellowship two years before.

The first time I met him, when I presented myself as a scholarship candidate in 1960, he seemed very old. I clearly rememher wrongly spotting a resemblance to Franz Liszt in extremis. Indeed so old did he seem that on not seeing him about the place in 1961 I drew that wrong conclusion often drawn by those ignorant of the existence of academic leave. In fact, Harry Hinsley was very The experience of those much alive in 1961, as in 1962 those of my contemporaries who were his pupils very soon

> He was a wonderful teacher. Associating himself with an

teach anyone, even a Johnian. any intelligible period of history. This conviction may have derived from his own experience at Bletchley. But what with Caius on the up, as it was then. in 1962 such studied amateur-

ishness struck even us as highwirism. Even so, with Hinsley it worked. "If you want to do modern this term, you'll go to Mr Miller, because he's a medievalist," he informed us. "But if you want to do medieval, then you'll come to me, because I'm a modernist." And we all asly. And we weren't all fools, or just rugby players (which Hinsley himself had been, which was extraordinary, though, given that, the rest was altogether credible. He had especially

So I was supervised by him on "The Coronation of Charlemagne", which was only one of his set-pieces, and in accordance with some Hinslaic variation of the immutable Hinslaic precepts also went to him for modern things and benefited from his deconstruction of his own Power and the Pursuit of Peace (1963).

enjoyed playing in the rain).

As a lecturer, he was spellbinding then, and 30 years on was spell-binding still. Less than a year ago I listened to him as he kept an enormous postprandial Cambridge audience on the edges of its collective seat while he reminisced on Bletchley days, without a note and for exactly the hour prescribed. Many of the audience on this occasion were candidates for the MPhil degree in International Relations, the degree course which Hinsley invented in the



Hinsley in 1979 with the first volume of his monumental British Intelligence in the Second World War Photograph: Hulton Getty

aftermath of Power and the Pursuit of Peace, and which has brought no end of interesting students to Cambridge in recent years, as well as spawning so many more more questionable courses in its wake,

Small of stature and dapper in appearance, Hinsley was notable for the distinctiveness of his pronunciation, the idiosyncrasy of which was more often

feebly mimicked than artfully reproduced. "That was a caricature, wasn't it?" he asked after one more than usually accurate representation.

His contribution to St John's College, to which he was permanently attached for the last 52 years of his life, is incalculable. As Fellow, Thtor, President and Master, he was forever about the place. It was during notice. And when, later that Chancellorship of the universi-

the college decided to "go mixed". Hinsley was not by nature a mixer, hut once the change had heen made he proved wholly supportive of it.

Because he was Reader in the History of International Relations, when in 1967 he said that there would be no war in the Middle East people took

his Mastership that at long last year, he said at lunch that Wilson wouldn't dare devalue and as he said it the Fellowship rose as one from its anxious eggs on toast and made its way down to Lloyds to see what could be salvaged. Hinsley's view was that the Fellowship was rushing it.

Shortly after being elected Master of St John's, in 1981 he was catapulted into the Vice-

ty. By 1981 Cambridge's spate of occupations and sit-ins was happily over. He wouldn't have been comfortable with those. The fashion now was for economy. Economy was a regime not altogether uncongenial to Hinsley. ("Just half a scuttle," he indicated from the chair at a meeting of his college council at about this time, as the fire was about to go out in the course of a discussion on the subject of how the college might cut corners.) In the history of the university he will be especially. remembered for his promet tion of the cause of early retirement.

Harry Hinsley was a man for all seasons, applauded and honoured both at home and abroad. Winter or summer, he would emerge in three-piece suit, plastic mac and invariable black beret. In mid-August, with the temperature in the nineties, the plastic mac and beret cut a particular swathe through the queues in the Cambridge Sainsburys. He was a rare

Peter Linehan

re

Francis Harry Hinsley, historian: 🐧 🕇 Walsall, Staffordshire 26 November 1918; War service, HM Foreign Office, 1939-46; Fellow, St John's College Cambridge 1944-79, 1989-98. Tutor 1956-63, President 1975-79. Master 1979-89; OBE 1946; Lecturer in History, Cambridge University 1949-65, Reader in the History of International Relations 1965-69. Professor of the History of International Relations 1969-83. Vice-Chancellor 1981-83; Editor, Historical Journal 1960-71; FBA 1981; Kt 1985; married 1946 Hilary Brett-Smith (two sons, one daughter); died Cambridge 16 February 1998.

### **Lord Granville of Eye**

1929 parliamentary intake. Al- Labour candidate in 1959. though the reference books had recorded his birthday as 12 recently that he was in fact born the previous year, and he died

Edgar Granville was born in Reading. He was subsequently educated in High Wycombe and Melbourne, Australia; he joined the Australian Light Horse at the outhreak of the First World War, serving in Gallipoli where he was wounded, and then in Egypt and France, After the war he set up his own manufacturing husiness hefore acquiring directorships in the pharmaceutical and armaments industries.

In 1929, he fought and won the rural constituency of Eye in Suffolk for the Liberals. Before the war Eye had been a safe Liberal seat. This was partly because of the strength of nonconformist feeling in the constituency but also due to the relative weakness of the Couservative landed interest. However Eve had last returned a of the party's decline Granville's victory was an achievement.

LORD GRANVILLE of Eye He was to remain associated was the oldest member of the with the seat for the next 30 House of Lords and one of the years (and MP for 22), fighting last surviving members of the his last election there as a

Granville's hold on the area was based on assiduous personal February 1899 it became clear contact. He employed two secretaries whose jobs included writing to all those who married two days after celebrating his in the constituency to offer porter of the Liberal Nationals them their MP's best wishes. The local Liberal organisation was very weak and Granville relied heavily on his network of

friends to fight elections. As an MP he had a relatively undistinguished career. He was Honorary Secretary of the Liberal Agricultural Group from 1929 to 1931. Subsequently he became the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Herbert Samuel, then Home Secretary, in 1931 and afterwards to Sir John Simon, the Foreign Secretary, from 1931 to 1936. However he never achieved

ministerial office. Of more interest was his shifting allegiance from the 1930s to the 1950s. Originally elected on the coat tails of Lloyd George's slogan "We can conquer unemployment", he sided with Sir John Simon when the Liberal Party split over free Liberal in 1922 and at the time trade in 1931 and stayed a supporter of Ramsay MacDonald's National Government

when the Liberal cabinet ministers resigned the following year. This may have been because of constituency pressure. As a cereal farming area, Eye was strongly in favour of the agricultural subsidies and tariffs that the Government were beginning to introduce.

Granville remained a supas Sir John Simon's supporters were known until the Second World War. After briefly serving with the Royal Artillery he resigned his commission in August 1940. By February 1942, along with several other Liberal National MPs, he was disillasioned both with their party and with the conduct of the war. Four of them including Granville resigned the whip to sit as Independents. With an election approaching, Granville rejoined the official Liberal Party in April 1945 and was narrowly re-elected in the 1945 election.

During the 1945-51 Attlee government Granville, Emrys Roberts and Megan Lloyd George became increasingly at odds with the Liberal leadership as Clement Davies, the party's leader, steadily moved the party towards a more antisocialist position. After the 1950 election, when Labour's majority was reduced to six, he often voted in the government

Patti, soprano, 1843; Marie Oberos (Estelle Merie O'Brien Thompson)

actress, 19t1; Stan Kenton (Stanle

Newcomb), jazz band-leader, 1912. Deaths: Charles Blondin (Jean-

François Gravelet), tight-rope walk-er, 1897; André-Paul-Guillaume Gide, novelist, 1951; John Grierson,

documentary film maker, 1972. On



Granville: sunny disposition

Photograph: Hulton Getty

defeat by the Conservatives. On one occasion, Granville, Roberts and Lloyd George even voted against a Liberal Party amendment on the cost of liv- servatives to bring down the ing to which all three had ac- Labour government.

lobbies to avoid a government tually out their names. Asked to justify his action afterwards. Granville argued that the Liberal motion was simply being used as a catspaw by the Con-

nadir of Liberal fortunes, three-cornered contest (of the six successful Liberal candidates only one was elected in a three-way fight). Without a seat in the Communs he quickly moved to join Labour in Janufection. He subsequently fought Eve for Labour in 1955 and 1959 without success although the collapse of the Liberal vote in 1955 showed the extent to which it had been a personal vote for him.

In 1967 he was raised to the Lords by Harold Wilson, and fore becoming a cross-bencher during the 1970s. Although his recreations were listed as foothall, cricket and skj-ing, Granville was also the author of two political thrillers, Storm English [1972] and The Domino Plan (1975).

Malcolm Baines

There is a civilised custom been members of the House of Commons can wander into the members' cafeteria at will, writes Tam Dalyell. Almost daily, the first to be served was usually a squat man whom no

Granville had lost his seat in

1968 when Harold Wilson, who remembered Granville as a loyal colleague supporting the Atwas not consulted before his de- to me and the first words he spoke were: "I stayed with your mum and dad in Bahrain in 1934 when I was Sir John Simon's parliamentary private secretary. Your dad was a stickler for imperial protocol. but your Arabic-speaking mum, with her cine-camera and friendships with Bahraini initially sat as a Labour peer be- women fascinated us," Granville was a man with a sense of curiosity which led to shrewd and accurate

What really brought us together was Gallipoli, where my maternal grandfather had been severely wounded and many killed in his regiment, the King's Own Scottish Borderers. Granville described the cirwhereby peers who have once cumstances of Anzac Cove, and the ludicrous night charge in which so many Australians, New Zealanders and British perished. His one source of pride was his presidency of the Gallipoli Association. He was

In the 1951 election, the MP could remember as a par- almost a professor of Gallipoli liamentary colleague. This was studies and took a deep inter-Granville was defeated in a hardly surprising, since Edgar est in any Gallipoli veterans who approached him.

I think Granville may have Our friendship began in been the originator of the phrase "Death by friendly fire"; certainly he used it before anyone else I know. He compiled ary 1952, much to the chagrin thee government, sent him to the instances of death at the hands of Megan Lloyd George, who Lords. Granville sat down next of our own troops through confusion at Gallipoli.

a scout with the Australian Light Horse. The Turks, as he put it, were a secondary consideration: the first task he had to undertake was to find fresh water sources. One evening, dismounted by a pool, he was hit in the leg by a sniper. Mi aging to scramble on to his horse, which was also slightly wounded he escaped, only to succumb to dysentery and yellow fever. "After Gallipoli anything was a bonus. I lived on borrowed time" - which accounted for his sunny and equable disposition.

Edgar Louis Granville, politician: born Reading, Berkshire 12 February 1898; MP (Liberal) for Eye 1929-51; Padiamentary Private Secretary to Sir Herbert Samuel 1931, to Sir John Simon 1931-36; created 1967 Baron Granville of Eye; married 1943 77 abeth Hunter (one daughter); died London 14 February 1998.

### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

### DEATHS

BAYLY: Grace. Widow of the Reverend Albert F. Bayly BA, on 14 February. Service al Christ Church URC, Chelmsford, on Monday 23 February al 1.2.15. No flowers but donations if desired to Farleigh Hospice 40 T. Pen-nack & Sons, 1 Maldon Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.

Baddow, Chelmsford.

HINSLEY: Professor Sir Harry, OBE
MA FBA, Fellow of St John's College,
Cambridge, former Master of St
John's College and Vice-Chancellor
of the University of Cambridge,
Emerius Professor of the History of
International Relations, died on Monday 16 February 1998, aged 79 years. SiMS: Edwin, suddenly at home on 16 February 1998, Much-loved husband February 1998. Much-loved husband of Mary, a dear father and grandfather who will be deeply missed by his family and many friends. Funeral service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Friday 27 February at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations to the Children's Hospice for the Eastern Region of T. Pennack & Sons, Grean Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 TDW.

STUNGO: Adrian, husband of Ruth and father of Humphrey, Naomi and Ben, died at home on to February. His funeral will be held at Golders Green crematorium on 21 February at 12 moon. Please call Levertons on 0171-586 4221 regarding donations.

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorium) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Indepen-dent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, on EM 5DL telephoned to 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010.

### Birthdays

The Duke of York, 38; Maj-Gen Peter Baldwin, consultant, Thomson Foundation, 71; Sir John Collyear. former chairman, USM Texon, 71; The Rev Gwynne Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 92; Sir Nicholas Fenn, former High Commissioner in India, 62; Lord Forbes, premier Lord of Scotland, 80; Mr John Freetant and former diplomat, 83; Lord Henniker, former ambassador, 82; Mr Andrew Jameson, swimmer, 33; Dr Robin Jeffrey, chairman and chief executive, Scottish Nuclear, 59; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis champion, 36; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 83; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 59; Sir Juhn N. Nicholson, former chairman, Ocean Steam Ship Co, 87; Sir Daniel Petrit, former chairman, National Freight Corpo-ration, 83; Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of battered wives' homes, 59; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 56; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 58; Mr Colin Sharman, senior partner, KPMG, 55; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 59; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT (Huldings). 69; Dr Jenny Tonge MP, 57.

**Anniversaries** Births: Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik), astronomer, 1473; David Garrick, actor. 1717; Adelina this day: bread riots took place in Liverpool. 1855; the phonograph was patented by Thumas Alva Edi-son, 1878; British and French ships shelled the Dardanelles, 1915. Today is the Feast Day of St Barbatus, S Beatus of Liebana, St Boniface of Lausanne, St Conrad of Piacenza and Lectures

The Lord Mayor of London, Mr

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Austrice Society, officially opens the society's now Head Office at 393 City Road, London ECT, opens Lanshury Ledge Proper, 117 Ricardy Street, Lon-don E14; as Prandent of Patrons, Crime Connects, the E14; as Prandent of Patrons.

British Museum: Linda Leach, "Mughal Portraiture", I. 15pm. RIBA (66 Portland Place, London W(): Terry Farrell, "National Aquar-ium and Other New Projects", 6.30pm Gresham College (Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1): Professor Lynette Hunter: Telling Stories/ Telling Lies", 5.30pm. Corporation of London

Richard Nichols, presented the Honorary Freedom of the City of London to Dr Heimut Kohl, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of his visit to the City of London yesterday.

Changing of the Guard

### LAW REPORT: 19 FEBRUARY 1998

be amputated.

capacity.

David Pannick QC and Michael

Fordham (Leigh, Day and Co) for

the applicant; Philip Sales (Treasury

Mr Justice Latham said that

the scheme had first been in-

troduced in 1980 in order to

give members of the armed

forces serving overscas, as

nearly as possible, compensa-

tion equivalent to that for

Solicitor) for the respondent.

### No compensation for injury caused in Bosnia

Regina v Ministry of Defence, ex parte Walker; Queen's Bench Division, Crown Office List (Latham j) 9 February 1998

The policy of the Ministry of Defence, to exclude injuries suffered as a result of military activity in Bosnia from its scheme to compensate members of the armed forces serving overseas who were victims of crimes of violence, was not unfair or irrational.

The court dismissed the application of the applicant, a serving soldier, for judicial review of the decision of the Ministry of Defence not to grant him compensation under its Criminal Injuries Compensation (Overseas) Scheme for serious injuries sustained whilst he was serving with the United Nations peace supporting force in Bosnia.

The applicant had been stationed at a school which served hoth as an accommodation unit and an observation post. In May 1995, those premises

from what was believed to be tim of a crime of violence in a Serbian tank. A number of Great Britain. In a letter distributed, to, insoldiers were hurt, the most seriously injured heing the ap-

ter alios. Commanders in Chief. Commanders and General Ofplicant, whose right leg had to ficers commanding all Com-The applicant had remained mands and Districts at home in the army, on storeman duand abroad, the respondent had stated that the scheme ties, but he was likely to be inwould not apply where the act valided out before the end of his career. If he were entitled of violence resulting in injury or death was committed by an to compensation under the scheme, he would ohtain a enemy where a state of war existed or a warlike situation very substantial lump sum both for general damages for pain was declared to exist. and suffering and loss of

In December 1994 the Minister of State for the Armed amenity, and for lost earning Forces had stated in Parliament that current operations in Bosnia fell into the category of war operations or military activity by warring factions". In October 1996 the applicant was informed that his application for compensation had

been rejected. It was submitted for the applicant that the policy which had been applied to him represented a change from that which they would have been cl- originally promulgated in 1980. were hit by a single round igible if they had been the vic- and that, apart from the state-

ment by the minister in Parliament it had never been made public. To apply the new criteria amounted to unfairness justifying the intervention of the court.

There had clearly been a change of policy after 1980 about which memhers of the armed forces had not been told, but the evidence went nowhere near establishing that the applicant or any of his fellow soldiers were aware of what that policy had been, other than in a relatively anecdotal form. The most that the applicant could say was that in some way the fact that compensation was payable to soldiers killed or injured in Northern Ireland entitled him to conclude that it would equally be payable for injury or death sustained in Bosnia.

Although there was 8 superficial similarity between the two situations, in that the soldier's task could be said to be that of keeping the peace, conditions in the two countries were wholly different. In Nor-

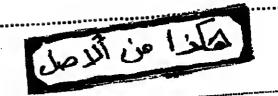
thern Ireland the soldier's task was to deal with terrorism in what was otherwise a country where law and order was maintained. In Bosnia the soldier was required to carry out his task in a country where law and order had broken down, and where sections of the population had been at war with each other in a sense wholly different from the sectarian

violence in Northern Ireland. The applicant was undoubtedly entitled to fair treament in accordance with the policy for the time being in force, but to no more than that. The respondent had been entitled to conclude that albeit the applicant's injury had been sustained as a result of a crime of violence, the tank had been engaged in "military activity" and thus came within the exception set out in the policy. The policy itself, which was not defined with reference to Bosnia alone, could not be said to be irrational or

perverse. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

## 23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEFENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR



## Government considers pulling plug on ICL benefit claim system

By Peter Thal Larsen

A £1.5bn project to replace Benefits Agency order books and Giro cheques with plastic payment cards and to computerise all Post Offices appeared close to collapse last night.

Following a series of delays and technical hitches, the Government is thought to be increasingly concerned about the likelihood of ICL, the computer services company. completing the contract.

PA, the consulting firm, has been companies have been approached asked to look at the uptions for the about taking it over. project, while the Departments of Social Security and Trade and Industry are holding a scries of high-level sis and this is one of the issues under discussions about the best way to

is understood to be the termination of the contract with ICL Pathway, the according to an agreed plan. There ICL subsidiary which is running the is no consideration of the government project. According to industry pulling out." The Post Office said it

A DSS spokesman said: "We discussion. We are discussing the problems at the moment." But an ICL. One option under consideration Pathway official denied there were problems: "This contract is running sources, rival computer services remained committed to the project.

formation technology (IT) contract ever awarded under the private finance initiative (PFI), was awarded to ICL in 1996 amid fierce competition. It envisaged issuing 20 million benefit claimants around the country with plastic "smart cards" with which they could

benefit and disability benefit. Payments would be made the country, which would be linked year 2000. But industry experts say

claim pensions, income support, child

system was intended to reduce social security fraud by £150m a year.

The system was originally supposed to be up and running by the middle of 1998. However, it has been and the need to link the Post Office beset by delays. At the moment it has computer system to the Benefits been installed in just 205 post offices, and only issues child benefit.

ICL Pathway insisted that the project was on schedule to be ready by through 19,000 post offices around a revised target of the middle of the

Problems are thought to centre on the complexity of certain social secunity payments, such as income support, Agency's system. It is thought that the software being used by ICL may be illequipped to deal with a project of this size. In addition, staff are believed to be leaving the project as they fear they

are unlikely to receive bonuses relat-

The project, which is the largest in- up to a central computer system. The the system faces a number of seri- ed to work being completed on time. The delays are a serious financial burden for ICL, because its payment is determined by the number of transactions that go through the system. Industry sources said the company had already spent £30m on the project and was currently losing a further £2m every month. But an ICL spokeswoman denied that the costs were one of the reasons why the company has delayed its flotation until the year 2000.

## Pound soars on record January shopping spree

By Diane Coyle **Economics Editor** 

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and the state of

BRITAIN'S high streets boomed last month as bargain-hunting remains that we are looking for shoppers sent the growth in sales to its highest level for nearly 10 years. The strength of the surge came as a surprise despite earlier figures showing record price discounts in the January sales,

The combination of booming volumes and low prices in favour of leaving rates unmeant none of the City's interest rate hawks or doves shifted from their respective perches yesterday. But the fact the recent Bank of England Inflation Report had warned of the likely need for higher interest rates sent the pound close to the DM3 level for the first time since the summer.

"These figures were much too strong. They should be enough to persuade the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to move next month," said David Walton, an economist at Goldman Sachs.

agreed that a rate rise might and was 6.5 per cent higher durcome as early as March. This ing the latest three months was the fastest growth since those days of red braces and Filofaxes in the summer of 1988."

But other analysts said the soaring volume of goods sold had no implications for policy because consumers had needed the encouragement of price cuts.

Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe said: "Strong sales are the result of low prices, not the precursor to higher inflation." He predicted sales volumes would fall back this month as retailers raised prices.

Rob Hayward, of Bank of America, added: "We pretty

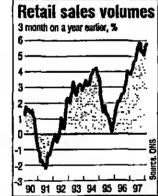
much knew this was going to be out a little higher than had been anticipated. But the big picture some sort of slowdown in the future. You have to look at what is going to happen to consumer

spending in the future." Today will bring an opportunity for members of the MPC. whose vote was split narrowly changed in January and February, to give their latest views. Four - two in each camp - will give evidence to MPs on the Treasury Select Committee.

The volume of retail sales jumped by 1.8 per cent in Jannary, and a small fall during December was revised away.

climbed from 5.5 per cent to 6.9 per cent last month. In the latest three months - a better indicator of the trend - the yearon-year growth rate increased to 5.7 per cent.

Ken Wattret at Paribas nearly £13bn during the month, than a year earlier.



One of the strongest coma strong number and it's come ponents in January was the volume of food sold. It jumped by 2.1 per cent, an unusually strong rise, especially coming after Christmas.

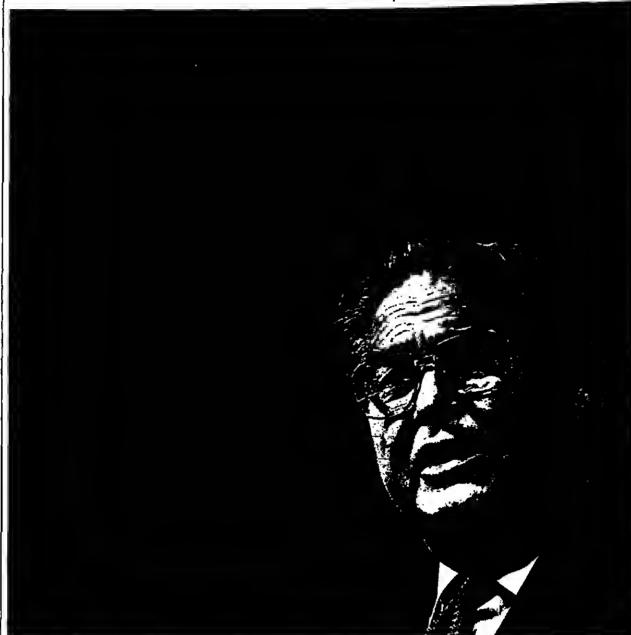
> Sales volumes at department stores were also unusually huoyant, up 3.2 per cent in January. Clothing and household goods - the two areas where there were particularly pronounced price discounts - rose somewhat less. They were up 1.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively, although the annual growth rate for household goods remained the strongest of all at 12 per cent

While the recent volatility of the official retail sales figures which account for about a The annual growth rate third of consumer spending since September left City pundits cautions about putting too emphasis on the implications of the latest news, However, the financial markets tonk it as a clear sign that the odds The value of sales reached on higher borrowing costs had increased.

> The pound climbed two pfennigs to nearly DM3 in reaction before falling back to just under DM2.99. The gilts market fell sharply and the futures market retreated from its earlier confidence that interest rates had already peaked.

> The mood was not helped by a weak US Treasury bond market, where traders were reported to be profit-taking after the release of figures showing a much higger than expected fall in prices at the factory gate in January. US producer prices dropped by 0.7 per cent during the month, the steepest drop since August 1993.

## Another five years for Steady Eddie at the Bank



EDDIE GEORGE was yesterday reappointed by the Prime Minister to a second five-year term as Governor of the Bank of England, ending an increasingly embarrassing delay in announcing the Government's decision. The City welcomed the news that 'Steady Eddie', a Bank of England man since 1962, will be at the helm for a full term rather than the two years some had expected. The announcement showed that early tensions between Mr George and

Gordon Brown were in the end no obstacle to the Governor's re-appointment. Mr George, speaking in front of a giant video projection at the Euromoney International Bond Congress in central London yesterday, restated his belief that the euro will be introduced on time in 1999 and that it will be launched on a 'broad basis'. At the same time, six new non-executive directors were appointed to the Bank, intended to introduce broader regional and business experience to its

Court. They are: Roy Bailie, chairman of W&G Baird Holdings; Graham Hawker, chief executive of Hyder, Sheila McKechnie, director of the Consumers' Association: Bill Morris. general secretary of the Transport & General Workers' Union: Iim Stretton. chief executive of Standard Life in the UK; and Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA and a former deputy director of the Bank.

Outlook, page 25 Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

### G8 code calls for open statistics

By Diane Coyle

FINANCE ministers and central bank governors of the world's leading economies, meeting in London this weekend, will give their initial approval to a draft code for greater openness in financial statistics in the wake of the Asian crisis.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that one of the lessons of the recent turmoil was the need for greater transparency. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been drawing up the code proposed by the UK at its

annual meeting in September. Mr Brown added that the G8 meeting (the G7 hig industrial countries plus Russia) would also be considering new assessments about the impact of events in Asia on the world economy. The latest estimates by the IMF suggested it would trim 0.8 per cent off world growth this year and 0.4 per cent from growth in the advanced economies.

Asia is expected to dominate the agenda on Saturday, with discussions of the IMF's plans to press ahead with further liberalisation of capital flows despite the recent crisis. The need for reform and improved regulation of hanking in emerging markets will also be discussed.

Other members are also expected to express their concern about the weakness of the yen and the scale of the planned boost to the Japanese economy.

The G8 meeting is to be followed on Sunday by a jobs summit for North American and European finance and economics ministers. Mr Brown said: "The purpose is to find new ways of responding to the need for job creation and job opportunities." Outlook, page 25

### Christie's talks collapse as private investors fail to hammer out a deal

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Christie's, the auction bouse, yesterday ended talks with a consortium led by SBC Warburg Dillon Read regarding a possihle recommended offer for the

The talks broke down on price with the investment banking group offering only around 270p-280p per share, valuing the company at just £460m-470m. This was much lower than previous estimates of the bid which put the offer at around £500m, or 300p per share.

The consortium's offer was little higher than yesterday's closing price of 265p, up 5p on the day. But Christie's shares the anction house. Mr Lewis,

had no chance to react to the statement as it was issued after the market had closed yesterday afternoon.

'We've had some talks and the mood was constructive but the two parties have not been able to agree a proposal which the Christie's hoard would have been able to recommend to shareholders," said finance director Peter Blythe. "We have been a public company for 25 years and life goes on.

The Warburg consortium featured a group of six high net worth individuals which included Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor who already owns 29.9 per cent of

who last year bought a stake in Glasgow Rangers football club, has been keen to increase his holding but under stock exchange rules could only do so if he made a bid for

the whole group. It is thought that the hreakdown of yesterday's talks marks the end of the consortium's interest and that it will not return with revised terms. "We have always said that we would only proceed on a recommended basis and as It is business as usual." that has not been possible we have withdrawn," a Warburg

spokesman said. SBC Warhurg's softly-softly approach has caused some puzzlement in the City as its

by Brian Keelan, the swashbuckling, corporate financier who successfully defended the Co-on last year from the £1hn hid from Andrew Regan. Mr Keelan is best known

not for agreed bids but for high profile hostile ones such as Trafalgar House's tilt at Northern Electric. He has also developed a reputation as an innovative financier who is Joe Lewis: His consortium keen to explore new ways of aimed to huy auctioneers structuring deals. Part of the attraction of auctions of valuable art

Christie's to potential bid- collections. ders has been its mailing list which includes many of the world's wealthiest individuals. approach to Christie's was led nancial muscle to underwrite profits of £40m.



overtook those at Sotheby's for the first time in 44 years. It will Christie's would also have report its full-year results tobeen able to use SBC's fi- day with analysts expecting

### Defection of top UBS analyst bags Tesco account for US bank

By Nigel Cope

THE FALLOUT from the banking merger hetween UBS and SBC continued yesterday when Morgan Stanley snapped up UBS's highly rated food retail analyst team and was appointed joint broker to Tesco.

The announcement follows the statement earlier this month that Tesco was ending its relationship with UBS following its merger with SBC. The supermarket group had expressed concerns about the merger because SBC Warburg acts as broker to its arch rival, J Sainsbury.

A key factor in Morgan Stanley winning the brokership was its recruitment of Andrew Fowler, UBS's food retail analyst,

the brokership with Nat West Securities, whose food retail team that there had been a significant was strengthened last month by the recruitment of David Mc-Carthy, who joined from BZW after the Crédit Suisse takeover.

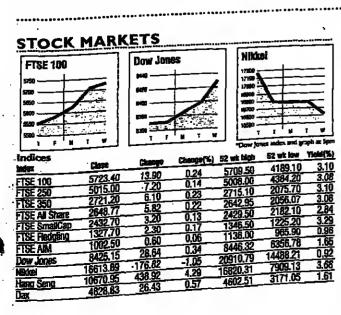
A senior Tesco source said one reason behind its choice of American investment banks such as Merrill Lyuch, Goldman Sachs and Salomon Smith Barney - appeared to be gaining share and influence in the UK. "You don't know who is still going to be around in five years time and it is better to have some

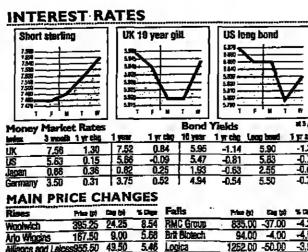
insurance against these changes." He said this was one reason

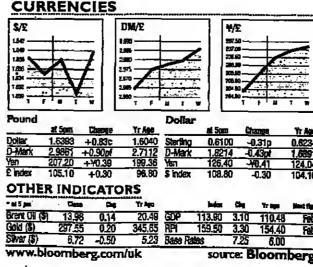
who has a long relationship with behind Tesco having two bro-Tesco. He left UBS on Tuesday. kers—one traditional UK house kers-one traditional UK house Morgan Stanley will share (NatWest) and a US firm such as Morgan Stanley. He added increase in the number of FTSE 100 companies that now have joint brokers, up from 40 per cent to around 60 per cent.

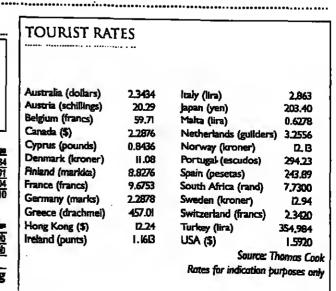
In the supermarket sector alone Asda has Cazenove and Morgan Stanley was that the HSBC James Capel while Sainsbury has SBC Warburg and ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

Other changes in the equities team at SBC Warburg Dillon Read include the decision to keep the entire UBS retail team led by Andy Hughes. SBC's retail analysts Paul Morris and Rod Whitehead are also being retained.









### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

### A heady rating for Woolwich

WHATEVER you think about the rights and wrongs of building societies losing their mutual status, new shareholders are not complaining. After a few initial wobbles all the former mutuals have had a storming share price run since coming to the market. A combination of takeover fever, which has pushed the banking sector skywards, and a buoyant savings market has seen share prices take off in recent months.

Woolwich added to the enthusiasm surrounding the sector yesterday by annuuncing a special dividend, worth an average of £105 each to investors who held on tu their windfall shares. The group has also put aside up to £200m for a share buy-hack. The shares duly rose another 6.5 per cent to 395.25p But is the market getting over-

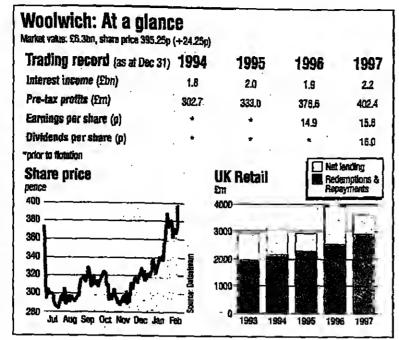
excited at Woolwich's prospects?

Underlying pre-tax profits, excluding conversion costs of £53m, rose 16 per cent to £455.7m. But much of easily, with prices likely to remain under that rise stems from activities outside the society's core business. More than half of the rise comes from noninterest income, such as commission paid to its independent financial advisers by other companies. Its profits were also flattered by substantial cuts to do with the recovery in the housing

market than any Woolwich initiative. And it has shown the same zeal for cost cutting as some of its rivals. Even leaving aside flotation expenses, costs came in at a disappointingly high £362m, well above forecasts.

There are growing concerns about the bank's long-term husiness prospects. AlB profits from Even in a strong market. Woolwich's net lending virtually halved and its market reland's boom share slipped from 7.5 to just 3.1 per cent. The other staple of huilding societies - retail bank deposits - saw an ALLIED Irish Banks has traditionally outflow of £595m, reversing the inflow from carpetbaggers the year before. sector, with investors favouring UK-

Part of that can be explained by based banking stocks. But with Barclays



et al looking increasingly expensive, at-

tention has turned to the Irish bank,

pushing the share price up by a third

734p, up 11.5p following a surprisingly

strong set of annual results. In the year

to December, pre-tax profits rose 38

Part of the reason was the inclusion

of proceeds from a recent US disposal

analysts had expected this to fall into

the current financial year. But even after

stripping this out, AIB still heat most

expectations by 6 to 7 per cent, partly

because of stronger-than-expected new

lending growth in the booming Irish

economy. With the economy forecast to

keep up its 8 to 9 per cent growth rate

during 1998, AIB should continue to see

new lending powering ahead.

After Ireland, which accounts for 41

biggest business area is the US. Here

further last year by the acquisition of

Dauphin Deposit Corporation.

per cent to Ir£580m (£480m).

Yesterday, AIB shares closed at

since the autumn.

Woolwich's reluctance to take part in a mortgage price war, but it is difficult to see how it can win back market share

pressure for some time to come. A merger is always on the cards, but the higher the price rises, the less likely it becomes. Analysts forecast earnings per share of 20p for 1998, putting the shares on prospective p/e ratio of 20, Considering that rates the shares in line in bad deht provisions, which has more with Lloyds TSB, by far the most successful player in the market, Woolwich's

shares are beginning to look very pricey. Woolwich now has an uphill task to boost its lending and saving husiness. Shareholders would be wise to take some profits at these levels.

been the poor cousin in the banking

and Asia. It has only a negligible Asian exposure and its investment banking arm is relatively small and tightly focused. Analysts' forecasts put the bank on

common pitfalls of investment banking

a forward p/e of around 15, which looks relatively good value given AIB's solid growth prospects. There are also more chances of acquisition activity. The bank bas dropped heavy hint about a Polish purchase, and has also signalled it might bolster its US franchise

Those wanting to buy into the increasingly pricey banking sector could do far worse than have a look at AIB.

### **Mersey Docks** thinks long-term

THE INFAMOUS strike by 329 dockers has cast a shadow over Mersey Docks' sbare price for the past few years. But now it has been settled, albeit at a cost of £10m, attention has turned to a port business which has been doing rather well despite the disrupdon.

Underlying profits rose 10 per cent to £48m thanks to record cargo volumes and a continued improvement in productivity. The shares responded by jumping 24p to 536.5p, a four-year high.

An ambitious £65m capital expansion programme should reap long-term rewards. New roll-on, roll-off and freight facilities and a redevelopment of its vast property holdings are sensible investments, although the expansion will have the effect of dampening short-term earnings growth.

Mersey has deserved its re-rating. Charterhouse Tilney forecasts fullyear profits of £46.5m, putting the shares on a prospective n/e ratio of 15. in line with rivals such as AB Ports and Forth Ports.

per cent of AIB's business, the next However, given that port stocks have AIB owns a strong regional hrand been treading water for some time now over fears of an economic slowdown First Maryland Bancorp - strengthened and shockwaves from the Far East crisis, Mersey's sbare price now looks AIB has also seemed to avoid the

## Airtours margins hit as tourists avoid Middle East

largest tour operator, yesterday jet off to catch some winter sun. admitted that winter bookings had been hit in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on tourists

in Egypt last November. Airtours was forced to switch its cruise ship, MS Seawing, away from Egypt following the terrible scenes at Luxor, where Muslim militants killed 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians.

The ship is now based in the Canaries. However, the lastminute switch forced Airtours to offer cut-price deals to fill capacity, which hit margins.

We decided to pull out of the area due to concerns from our customers. We recovered some of the losses by moving the ship to the Canaries. But sales of the new holidays were not as strong as we hoped," an Airtours spokesman said yesterday.

Despite the set-back, overall UK boliday sales for the three months to December rose 8 per

AIRTOURS, the UK's second- cent as more Britons chose to Airtours has not seen any

negative effects from the growing Iraqi crisis. But the group said that war in the Middle East could have a knock-on effect on holiday destinations such as Cyprus, Turkey and Tunisia.

Airtours' first-quarter losses rose to £17.3m (£12.1m). The group traditionally makes losses in the first half of its financial year, which cover the quieter holiday months. However, the losses were higher than analysts expected.

Airtours hlamed further problems at the group's Scandinavian tour business. Engineering problems and a lack of available planes delayed flights and added to costs. Airtours has also increased discounts to more than 20 per cent on a number of holidays which, in the past, have proved difficult to sell until the last minute.

But the group denied kickstarting a price war or flooding the market with more capacity. This is just tactical discounting and their has been no significant increase in capacity from the major tour operators." the

spokesman said. Airtours' expansion in North America, where it has recemby set up a business in Florida, also lead to higher seasonal losses. The group said its holiday business in Canada, which has proved a difficult market in recent years, was finally showing signs of recovery.

Airtours is keen to expand its European business and is believed to be among the frontrunners to buy a stake in LTU. Germany's third-largest package holiday group, which has been up for sale by Westdeutsche Landesbank. But the deal is sale is still being examined by the German cartel authorities.

### Hollick sells Southern for £47m to rival newspaper group

UNITED News & Media, Lord its otles are free. The Govern-Hollick's publishing and televiment's decision last week to sion group, yesterday took the first step in the disposal of its regional newspaper division when it sold its Southern titles to rival group Southnews for £47.5m.

Southnews will partly fund the acquisition of the 28 titles, which include the Staines Informer and the Enfield Advertiser, with a placing and open offer to raise £19.6m.

Southnews is understood to have beaten off stiff compedition to win the auction. Other bidders are thought to have included regional newspaper groups Trinity International and Newsquest as well as venture capital groups Candover and CVC.

Gareth Clark, Southnews' chairman, said the company's bid had been helped by the fact it does not have to be automatically referred to the competition authorities, reducing the risk of a time-consuming enquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). Southnews es- at 465p. United News shares put capes a referral because most of on 2p to 287p.

block a similar deal - the acquismon of Johnston Press by Home Counties Newspapers - is thought to have scared off other trade hidders. Johnston and HCN had said its offer was made on the basis that neither com-

pany wanted an MMC inquiry. Home Counties said yesterday that although its offer for Johnston Press had lapsed, it intended to pursue the acquisition by co-operating with an MMC esngadon.

United News said the sale of the other two parts of its regional newspapers division - the Northern and Spanish titles was "progressing well". Trinity and Newsquest are thought to have pulled out of the running for the Northern titles but Candover is still involved.

Mr Clark said Southnews hoped to save about £1m a year by integrating the businesses. Southnews shares closed up 6p

### Swansea City plans £75m stadium

By Andrew Yates

SWANSEA City are to have a new, £75m 25.000-seater stadium, under plans unveiled yesterday by Silver Shield, the club's parent. The complex will include a leisure ceotre and multi-screen cinema as well as conference facilities and create 750 jobs. It will also be used for music events and Super League rugby fraures. Swansea is even in talks with the Football Associadon about holding international

iet

football matches at the new site. Neil McClure, chairman 💅 Swansea, dismissed suggestion that the club, currently lying 18th in the third division, would struggle to fill the stadium. "We have hig ambitions for Swansea City and want to make it a ma-

jor force in football." he said. Silver Shield, which bought an 80 per cent stake in Swansea last August, expects to get planning permission for a 75 acre site at Morfa, a mile west of the city.

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### Eli Lilly joins forces with Xenova to develop drug

By Andrew Yates

THE BATTERED hiotechnology sector received some much needed good news yesterday when US pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly teamed up with Xeno-va. the fledgling UK drugs group, to develop the first new oral drug for more than 40 years

designed to stop blood-clotting. The groups believe the treatment could prevent potentially life-threatening clots in millions of people recovering from heart attacks or major surgery.

The treatment could eventually be developed as an alternative to existing remedies which include Warfarin, a rat poison, and aspirin. These drugs can lead to serious side effects such as bleeding disorders which can lead to hospitalisation.

Lilly has agreed to pay Xen-ova \$35m (£21m) in licence fees. research funding and milestone payments. It will also put up millions of pounds of marketing and development costs and pay Xenova royalties of 10-15 per cent if the treatment gets through clinical trials. Xenova specialises in discovering drugs from natural sources such as fungi and plant extracts and the new treatment is hased on chemicals found in soil. Its share price has suffered along with the rest of the biotech sector over the last 12 months. But news of the deal saw its shares

jump 31p to 225p yesterday. Lilly and Xenova believe a new class of drugs known as PAI inhibitors can stop overproduction of a key enzyme which betps the blood to clot in the event of a cut.

More than 13 million people could use the drug in the US alone and Xenova estimates it could attract annual sales of more than a hillion dollars.

Lilly is hest known for Prozac, the world's best selling anti-depressant. The tie-up with Xenova is part of a strategy to develop a portfolio of cardiovascular treatments hefore Prozac goes off patent in 2001.

### Rival bid for Millennium Dome water contract

THAMES WATER is facing an unexpected rival bid for the multimillion pound contract to supply water and sewerage services to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, South-east London. Albion Water, the joint venture company formed last year by South It is West Water and Enviro-Logic, the consultancy group which has pioneered water competition, has submitted an application to provide water to the site to Ofwat, the industry watchdog.

Jeremy Bryan, Alhion's managing director, said the proposals would reduce drinking water demand by 40 per cent compared with Thames' plans, by extracting supplies from on-site boreholes and using part-treated water for toilet flushing. The application includes the Dome, which will have 700 lavatories and the Millennium Village nearby, with 1.400 homes and other facilities.

### Safeway director leaves

SAFEWAY, the supermarket group under pressure in the grocery battle, yesterday sought to play down the sudden departure of its trading director and a shake-up at its head office which will result in up to 50 redundancies. It denied the changes were the result of a further deterioration in its performance and indicated its trading statement next Tuesday would show the group is "beading in the right direction".

It confirmed that George Charters, the trading director, was leaving Safeway after two years in the job. Mr Charters was responsible for pricing, product availability and the supply chain, which have been behind some of Safeway's recent

### Hong Kong trims forecasts

HONG KONG is sharply downgrading its economic forecasts for the coming year, even though the administration believes it is in better shape than its Asian neighbours. Delivering the first hudget of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, Sir Donald Tsang, the financial secretary, surprised the market with what he called "the largest package of tax reductions in Hong Kong's history".

Corporate tax will be reduced from 16.5 to 16 per cent, alongside a host of other corporate tax concessions designed to pla cate the business sector. The standard rate of income tax remains at 15 per cent, while higher personal allowances and changes to tax bands will deliver tax cuts for nearly all taxpayers.

### T&N back in the black

T&N, the engineering firm, reported a return to profit yesterday as it signed off what are likely to be its last results before takeover by Federal-Mogul of the US. It made a pre-taxprofit of £190m last year, against a loss of £388m in 1996 when it made heavy provisions to fence the company off from its past as a major asbestos producer.

	Turnover &	Pre-tax £		
AIB (F)	· (-)		EPS	Divide
Africum (Q)	168.5m (340.7m)	R580m (422m)	IR48 Op (38,4p)	17.7p (15
Eury Szies Flancs (i)	3.0m (1.56m)	-17.3m (-12.1m)	-3.16p (-2 4p)	128
Mercey Docks (7)	188.5m (149.7m)	0.614m (0.110m)		wa .
St Modwan Prope (F)	41.3m (40.2m)	(C.S.AGRII)		14,5p (12
T&N (F)	1.88bn (2.06bn)	13 57m (11.69m)		3.0p (2.5p
Wastwich (f)	- (-)	190 tm (-0.368m)	22.9p (-75.4p)	9.2p (3.0p



OUTLOOK ON APPOINTMENTS TO THE COURT OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND. THE CONVERTED BUILDING SOCIETIES' SURPLUS CASH. AND CONFLICTING IDEAS ON JOB CREATION

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## Brown fails to shake the Bank's foundations

HAVE you heard the one about the Scotsman, the Irishman and the Welshman! Well, they've all just been appointed to the court of the Bank of England in an attempt by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to make Britain's newly independent monctary authority more representative of the regions. There's also a trade unionist ~ Bill Morris of the Transport and General Workers' Union - and, heaven forbid, a woman - Sheila McKechnie, director of the Consumers' Association.

long-heralded shake-up in the higher echelons of the Bank is far from radical. Eddie George is left in situ as Governor, though those darlings at the Treasury kept him sweating as long as they could, and the Chancellor has even reappointed two of the court members he could have replaced. My, it must be difficult to get the right people these days.

By some accounts, all this happened more by default than out of choice. Despite a long search, the Chancellor was unable to find an acceptable replacement for Mr George. Nor. amazingly, was it easy to find suitable candidates for the court, which ends up not so very different in its composition from the one New Labour inherited from the Tories. But then, we're all New Labour now, aren't we?

That said, Mr Brown seems to have got the judgement more or less right. This was probably not the right time to change the Governor, with delicate negotiations still to take place in Europe over Botain's relationship with the single currency. There will be plenty of opportunity for that later, since

gracefully before his second term is up.

Moreover, the choice of new appointments to the court is hard to challenge. In Bill Morris, the Bank gets one of the most accomplished new thinking unionists, while it would be impossible to find a chief executive of more upright quality and high moral values than Jim Stretton of Standard Life. Possibly more out of back than design, the Chancellor has got his choices spot on.

### In other respects, however, Mr Brown's The crucial role of capital excesses

IT'S CALLED "excess capital" and apparently unyone who's anyone has oodles of it these days. The utilities had it in bucket fulls; banks seem to have it by the lorry lead. Why, most companies worth the name have some degree of it. Companies that don't will find shareholders want to know why. Unless there's a good growth story to tell, the stock market is prone to think the lack of indicative of management failure.

Let's not dwell too much on the reasons for this phenomenon, which are well rehearsed. Falling long-term borrowing costs, better management and more efficient use of capital are the chief factors. The question is less where it came from as what to do with it. Once upon a time managements used to be able to get away with pouring it into uneconomic investment and acquisitions. Very few can hope do that now and survive.

So the easy course is simply to give it back to shareholders and let them make for the money, including acquisitions.

The corporate philosophy of our time is stick to your knitting, and if you cannot find an economic use for your money, let

the capital markets do it for you. Ambitious managements are still prone to stray, however. Indeed, they'd hardly be worth backing if occasionally they didn't come up with a good alternative. So what should the converted huilding societies be doing with their excess? Because until recently they've been locked into mutual ownership, unable either to spend or give away their accumulating capital, they've now got rivers of the stuff to dispose of.

A recent circular from Salomon Smith Burney estimated this surplus at more than £6hn for the big three alone (Halifax, Alliance & Leiosster, and Woolwich), a figure which seems to be broadly confirmed by Woolwich's own estimate of its excess announced with figures vesterday.

This is normally a highly dangerous position for managements to be in. The risk of profligate expenditure is obvious. As a consequence, the markets are demanding the money is returned as quickly as the converted societies' tax positions allow. With building societies there is a further factor that pushes them down this route: if they buy anything, they lose their five year protection under the law from hostile takeover and as a consequence immediately become a hid target themselves.

All the same, both John Stewart at the Woolwich and Mike Blackhum at the Halifax, talk merrily about finding other uses

buy-back. Woolwich is promising to deliver the maximum of its excess back to shareholders its tax position allows this year. Even so, that still leaves more than £500m of surplus lying around in the Woolwich coffers without a use. If he can find the right acquisition, Mr Stewart would happily give up his protection to pursue it. The same is true of Mr Blackburn. The trouble is that with valuations at present levels, it's hard to see what either of them could buy that

would deliver value to their shareholders. For the time being, most of the converted societies seem to have reasonably plausible independent strategies. But tooking beyond the five-year horizon, it is hard in see how all of them can hope lo remain stand alone companies. Halifax is large enough to lead in the consolidation of retail financial services everyone is predicting. But what of Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester? The betting must be that they will find themselves part of a larger organisation. On what terms that happens depends crucially on how they perform to the meaotime, including how they marshal all that surplus capital.

### Brown's third way won't be easy

POLITICIANS always find it hard to resist the claim to have found peace where there was only discord, a "third way" hetween apparently divergent paths. That's precisely what Gordon Brown is about to do with his jobs summit this weekend, just as

Mr George is widely expected to how out gracefully before his second term is use.

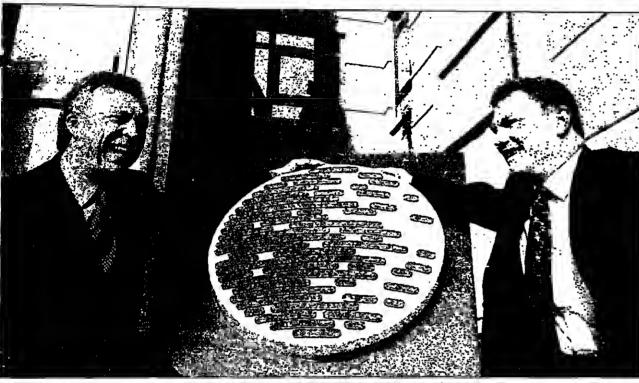
With its special dividend and planned share gracefully before his second term is use.

mit two years agn. The Chancellor insisted yesterday that the forthcoming meeting was not going to be a mere talking shop. He expected specific proposals for tax reform, a more active welfare system, better competition policies and more ideas for improving venture capital and entrepreneurship to

Mr Brown is certainly sincere. Let's hope he is right, too. But the omens are not favourable. President Clinton got into trouble for his triumphalism at last summer's G8 summit in Denver, boasting about the US economy's success even as security guards warned offended European delegates not in wander too many blocks in the wrong direction from the convention centre. Since then, the US jobs machine has gone into overdrive, with a record proportion of the American population now in work.

Meanwhile, France has introduced a compulsory reduction in weekly working hours, a mad idea that will destroy rather than create jobs, opposed by everyone except for the millions of people who voted for the Socialist government last year. The single currency will help focus European minds on the need for economic reforms that will genuinely improve the jobs market. Mr Brown has a list of policy proposals as long as your arm to help them on their way. But even if all those at the jobs summit decide they like the sound of his "third way, he will find they are facing in opposite directions.

## CWC to spend £400m on network improvements



Networking: Gary Donahee of Nortel (left) and Greg Clarke of CWC announcing the upgrade plans Photograph Lucy Blake

By Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

CABLE & WIRELESS Com-

munications (CWC) yesterday raised the stakes in the intensely competitive UK phooe market, revealing plans to spend £400m on replacing or upgrading much of its long-distance fibre network.

It also emerged that CWC

The new network involves a

enable it to leapfrog competitors, including British Telecom and Energis. It is the largest ever contract won outside North America by Nortel, which was responsible for huilding Energis's digital network and the controversial wireless technnlogy used by lonica.

The four-year programme will form part of CWC's £1hn anoual investment hudget, which is due to generate positive cash-flows by 2000-2001. CWC said the £400m investment was likely to see "low utilisation" in the early years, but the group was anticipating an explosion of data traffic simi-

lar to that seen in the US. Graham Wallace, CWC's chief executive, said the advanced digital technology was of "a completely different order of magnitude" to that used by competitors. It would increase capacity by at least 10 times on the existing Mercury fibre long-distance network, rolled out during the mid 1980s.

Greg Clarke, CWC's chief operating officer, said the company may also offer voice telephony across the internet, "We don't see internet telephony as a threat, we see it as an opportunity. You can't he a luddite or a King Canute."

Arguments about technology have become increasingly heated among phone operators in recent months, as rivals seek to exploit the shift from traditional voice telephony to high-speed data transmission and internet access. CWC said its network would adopt "self-healing" technology which identifies and fixes faults,

similar to that used by Energis or

Colt but on a much higger scale.

BT which recently revealed a £300m digital network upgrade, disputed C&W's claim. "We already have the largest advanced network in the UK with more capacity than

C&W's. This is just standard

technology," said a spokesman. An Energis spokeswoman said it would take CWC at least two years to catch up. "By that time we'll have enhanced our network even further. This gives us a window of opportunity to widen the gap."

Mr Wallace declined to reveal the new cost-cutting targets yesterday, but said Coopers & Lybrand would look at ways of shifting resources to the fastest growing parts of CWC's business.

Since last year's complex four-way merger five network control centres have been merged down to two sites.

### Shares in new banks surge as Woolwich announces buy-back

By Andrew Verity

MILLIONS of shareholders in the converted huilding societies enjoyed a mini-windfall yesterday as share prices in the sector surged on news of a

share buy-back from Woolwich. Shares in Woolwich jumped 6.5 per cent to 395p after the recently floated bank said it would spend up to C300m giving capital back to shareholders via a buy-back and special dividend.

Alliance & Leicester rose 49.5p to 955.5p. Halifax was up 21.5p at 940p while Abbey National added 41p to 1,285p as about £1.6hn was added to the value of the companies.

Shareholders with Woolwich will be paid a special dividend of 6.5p per share on top of the 9.5p per share for 1997. People who have kept their windfall shares stand to gain £105 each from dividends alone, Woolwich also announced a rise in profits and said it was seeking permission to spend up to £200m

Woolwich shares have risen sharply in the last three months on the back of speculation that the group will be taken over by an insurance company or

extra on a share buy-back,

merged with another bank. However, City analysts yesterday said the share price was

merger speculation. Jeremy Baistooe, head of research at NatWest Stockhrokers, said shareholders should get ready to sell, "They have been lacklustre since their launch and only recently have investors seen any kind of performance from their shares. Better value exists elsewhere in the sector."

John Stewart, chief executive, vesterday confirmed the bank was still interested in mergers or joint ventures. However, he in effect ruled out the possibility that the bank would make an acquisition, saving prices were too high.

"It would be very difficult to heing propped up by vague dn anything no the acquisition front that would add to shareholder value," he said, "While values are high as they are, in the UK, we will be looking for development by means of things like joint ventures and mergers."

Woolwich saw pre-tax profits rise by 16 per cent to £455.7m last year. But the cost of converting to a bank subtracted £53.3m from the figure.

Since the bank's conversion last July, savers have withdrawn £595m, a reversal of the "carpetbagger effect" in 1996 which saw £696m flow in. Its share nf the mortgage market has dropped from 7.5 to 3.1 per cent.

Outlook, this page Investment column, page 24

or leaves

is appointed accountants Coopers & Lybrand to identify cost savings in the £5bn company. formed out of last year's merger of Mercury Communications with three cable operators, Bell Cahlemedia, Videotron and Nynex CableComms.

risk-sharing partnership with the Canadian equipment giant Northern Telecom (Nortel). which CWC claimed would

### **Botnar sues Revenue for** 'malicious prosecution'

By Chris Godsmark

OCTAV BOTNAR, the 84year-old founder of Nissan UK, yesterday hegan legal proceedings for damages against the Inland Revenue alleging malicious prosecution, in the latest twist to the six-year saga over fraud allegations.

Advisers close to Mr Botnar, who has been living in Switzerland since a Revenue raid on Nissan UK's Worthing offices in 1991, said he wanted to "get back into court and have his day".

In a writ served yesterday, Mr Botnar claimed the Inland Revenue based its case on "speculation" in an effort to destroy Nissan UK's business. The writ said that after 18 manths of investigations, involving visits to nine countries

and 200 witness statements, it was obvious that the Revenue had uncovered no evidence of fraud by the company.

Two former Revenue special investigators are also named in the writ, both of whom have left the organisation to work for hig accountancy firms. They are Robert Brown, now with Ernst & Young, and John Cawdron, who has joined Price Waterhouse. The Revenue last night confirmed it had received the writ,

but declined to comment further. Mr Botnar is claiming damages against the Revenue to cover financial loss and mental anguish. "There has been extensive, humiliating, offensive and degrading publicity generated by the continuance of the prosecution," the writ said, adding that damages would be

paid to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre appeal.

The legal move follows the Revenue's decision to withdraw two arrest warrants against Mi Botnar last November on health grounds. He was yesterday said to be "extremely likely" to return to Botain for the court case later this year. "He's had shame and derision

poured down on him and he's desperate to put his side of the story. This matters more to him than anything," said a friend.

Nissan UK agreed to pay the Revenue £59m in 1996 as a corporation tax settlement, though Mr Botnar has since regretted the move. He is also appealing against a separate court ruling ordering him to pay some £68m in taxes on dividends paid to a charitable trust.



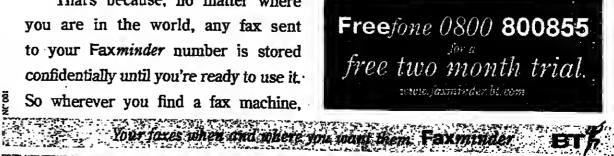
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Octav Botnar: Nissan UK founder seeks damages

## CU leads insurance advance as bid hopes rise

MARKET REPORT



have stolen a march oo the banks, with Commercial Union leading the charge.

1,110p peak.

GRE, said to be talking merger with CU, put on 7p to a 447p high. The shares have risen 48.5p since Monday.

Royal & Sun Alliance rose 21p to 740p and Legal & Generai 16p to 718p. Sun Life & Provincial, French controlled, was little changed at 555p.

Besides deals within the insurance industry the stock Leicester 49.5p to 955.5p. market is alert to the possibility that the clearing hanks, particularly Barclays and Lloyds TSB, could be tempted to strike, and there is the longstanding suspicion that Continental predators may

emerge. The merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance

stock market's takeover considerations and was seen as fears of higher interest rates favourites. This week they heralding further coosoli- although Marian Bell, chief

Financials, in various forms, once again pushed blue On Monday CU was chips to oew highs. Although 1,03 ip. Yesterday the shares the major clearing banks hiking rates". climbed a further 39p to a tended to give ground, the two Scottish banks and the mortgage banks made headway.

Woolwich inspired the the market fearing that next former building societies gaining 24.5p to 395.5p following its profits performance and cash handouts, and the growing conviction that it does not nurse grand and risky expansion plans. Halifax improved 21.5p to 940p and Alliance &

Bank of Scotland added 34p to 691p and Royal Bank of Scotland 35p to 987p. Footsie, at one time up 31.8

points, suffered a little late pressure, closing 19.9 higher at a 5,723.4 peak. Supporting indices, too, were in recordbreaking mode.

The sharp increase in Jan-

Insurers are taking over as the was dictated by defensive uary's retail sales reawakened Credit Lyonnais Laing, gaining 9p to 167.5p.

treasury economist at Royal linger, put on 31.5p to 860.5p. Bank, said: "I would hope the doves win the day because I Ahead of the hreakdown of don't think they should be Safeway fell 10p to 372p on

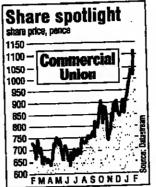
was up 5p to 265p. the surprise departure of director George Charters. With week's trading statement will, in fact, be another profits warning, the shares would have fallen further but for

hopes of an Asda bid. Associated British Foods held at 622p despite NatWest Securities caution, and Courtaulds, the chemical group, gained 11p to 274.5p with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson

saying buy. The fund manager Ivory & Sime edged ahead 3p to 204.5p on a Merrill Lynch upgrade and Argo Wiggins Appleton, the paper maker, enjoyed another takeover whiri and buy advice from

Compass, the cootract caterer where takeover hopes takeover talks with SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Christie's International, the auctioneer,

British Aerospace, ahead of today's figures, rose 40p to 1.830p. Overseas shareholdings have reached the 29.5 per cent ceiling. It is thought to be



the first time BAe has been in danger of hreaking the restriction oo foreign interests.

The Government is on the verge of increasing the overseas limit to 49.5 per ceot, a move which would also help Rolls-Royce, up 2.5p

Rank, the leisure group, hardened 14.5p to 333p. Figures are due on Friday.

Lucas Varity, the aerospace group, gained 4p to 222p with Warburg keen on the shares. There are reports of a deal with French giant Thomson-CSF to produce technology which would allow a car to automatically match the speed of traffic ahead of it.

Jarvis, the high flying rail maintenance group, climbed 16.5p to 529p following investment meetings in Scotland.

Euro Sales Finance, providing a small companies service, jumped 82.5p to 292.5p with interim figures ahead of expectations and moves to develop in Europe. But Ronson,

for the next market-bound

Monopolies & Mergers Com-

Xenova, which has fixed up

Linnheart edged ahead

a licensing and research pact

with Eli Lilly, the US giant,

1.5p to 14.5p, highest for two

years. Year's results are duc

next week and around £1.2m

is expected. The company, re-

vamped by Mark Flatman.

ex-Courtaulds Textiles, suf-

fered a £12.7m loss in 1996.

Lionheart, which hit 320p four

years ago, is now largely a

supplier of bathroom acces-

Capital Radin sounded a

25p gain to 615p. A huyer for 550,000 shares at 603p was re-

sponsible. The group has

made an application to run a

North-east radio station ded-

icated to children.

gained 31p to 225p.

mission.

restaurant chain. The shares rose 16p to 93.5p after the company said it was in talks the luxury goods group, fell 2p which could lead to a to 4.5p as the hoped-for rescue hid remained clusive. Home substantial acquisition. With restaurant groups Counties Newspapers slumped 85p to 400p as the takeover by Johnstoo Press went to the

queuing to come to market, it is believed Parambe, which had intended to liquidate, bas been approached by a well-known eating-out chain.

TAKING STOCK

Parambe could be the vehicle

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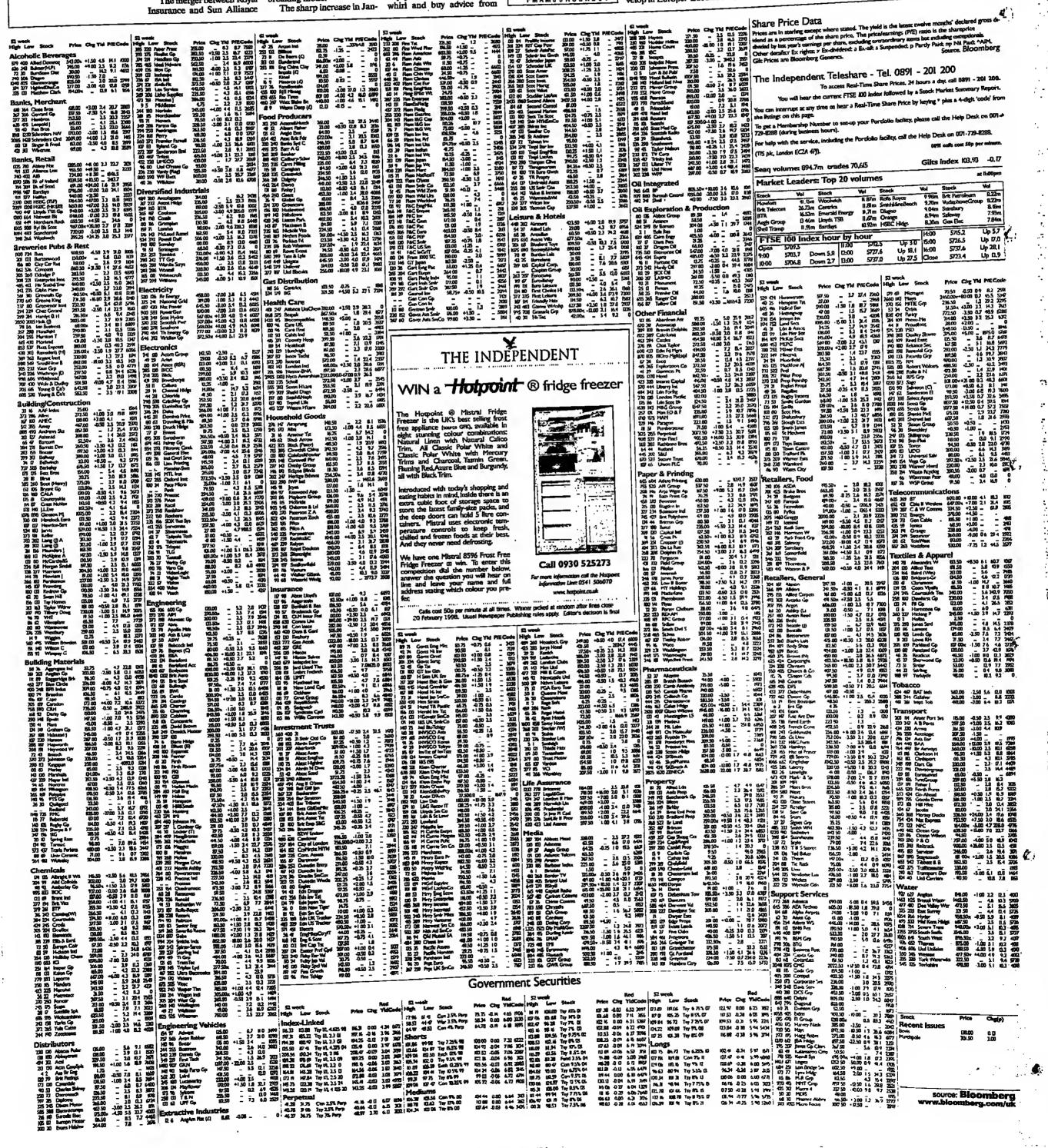
Spot Rates

Its assets consist of paintings and equities and it was due to wind up at the end of 2,000.

KS Binmedix is challenging to become the new biotech star. Suggestions that t is thinking of listing on Nasdaq lifted the shares 27.5p to a 265p peak.

Last month the recent drugs tiddler, which is now worth more than £100m, said it had developed three antibodies for colon cancer.

Other developments are thought to be near to being anveiled. This year the shares have surged from 106p.



## The simple idea that lies behind Microsoft's bid to rule the world



DIANE **COYLE** ON THE **DEBATE OVER ECONOMIES** OF SCALE

economics, the passion for increasing returns or economies of scale. You can tell this is the cutting edge of research because it is starting to generate some juicy academic rows. There is an entertaining internet exchange in progress\* between Professor Paul Krugman of MIT, one of the superstars of the profession, and fans of Professor Brian Arthur, a technology expert at the Santa Fé Institute in California, over how long and how seriously economists have been exploring the implications of widespread economies of scale -- or positive feedback, as an

THERE IS a new passion in

engineer would describe it. To start at the beginning, generating so much excitement? It is one of those very simple, commonsense ideas that any non-economist is amazed to discover is at the cutting edge of the discipline. Increasing returns just means that the more worth people buying faxes until a of some activity takes place, the cheaper or more profitable it becomes. Economies of scale in industry are the obvious example. The unit cost of an aircraft falls rapidly the more planes a company builds, thanks to the huge research, design and start-up market leader, as Microsoft costs, so the aerospace industry is naturally dominated by a few large companies.

The economies of scale do not are enormous. need to apply within one com-

pany, however. Another widespread form is the geographical clustering of certain industries like the car industry around Detroit. It is not just GM that enjoys economies of scale, but all the suppliers of parts, and all the skilled workers, giving Motown and its hinterland in Michigan a dominant role in car manufacture.

This is a phenomenon that economists have investigated since the 19th Century, but it fell out of fashion when the subject became very much more mathematical in the 1970s because the mathematics was so much harder than assuming there were constant returns to scale. By the early 1980s, however, economists had improved their maths, and several researchers like Professor Krugman started to apply increasing returns to several areas from the theory of international trade to growth and investment.

The real excitement, however, has come about because increasing returns are widespread in many new, hi-tech industries like consumer electronics and computer software. Professor Arthur, with his technological expertise, was prominent among the experts who wrote about this aspect.

To take one very topical case, the existence of a particular type of increasing returns makes the software industry very vulnerable to dominance by a market leader. Microsoft's attempt to rule the world is aidwhat is this phenomenon that is ed by network externalities: the more people use its programmes, the more valuable the software becomes to any new user because of the need for compatibility.

This is true of, say, fax machines as well -- it was not lots of other people had them and then, when there were lots, the cost of the machines nosedived. But it is innate to software, which has little value if few people can use it. The "lock-in" henefits of hecoming the has in desktop computer operating systems and hopes to in a whole range of other areas,

As the prospect of a full-



Bill Gates' attempt to increase his market dominance raises a dilemma for policymakers

A whole slew of threatened or

pending anti-trust suits in the US

demonstrates that this is be-

coming a hot issue. The current

issue of the US journal Business

Week lists half a dozen cases small-

er companies would like to bring

against giant competitors, like

brewer Anheuser-Busch which

manufactures Budweiser beer

and is blamed for persuading bars

not to stock beers from micro-

breweries, or crisp manufactur-

er Frito-Lay which is accused of

trying to muscle less well-known

is the ice-cream war over

wbether big manufacturers

could tie retailers into stocking

only their brands of frozen

goodies in the refrigerators

tie PC manufacturers into

bundling its internet browser

rather than rival Netscape with

the operating software.

In the UK a good example

brands off store shelves.

blown anti-trust case against Microsoft looms in the US, where competition legislation is far more muscular than it is here, the bi-tech computer industries look like the most exciting real world manifestation of increasing returns. But the phenomenon is far more pervasive than that, and carries serious implications for how governments should be regulating competition.

In modern economies more and more of the value of output, even of manufactured products, is weighdess, Intangibles such as service quality, product design, even creative and imaginative content are what people pay money for.\*\* Profit margins come increasingly from style and image.

The result is that, in virtually any market you can think of. there are huge advantages to being the market leader and having the dominant brand. The most prevalent increasing returns these days are to be found not in manufacturing but in marketing.

The difficulty for competition policy arising from the pervasiveness of markets where increasing returns create a natural leader, for which companies will of course compete fiercely in the first place, is twofold. First, it is harder to be sure that it is bad for consumers, most of whom do prefer the products of the market leader. This is especially true in hi-tech markets where prices tend to fall anyway. Secondly, it is hard to see what the competition authorities can do about it. If they did manage to prevent one company from dominating a market, another big bad giant would come along to replace it hecause of the underlying increasing-returns economics.

Defenders of Microsoft rely on this argument, which is essentially that the natural creative destruction of market capitalism and product innovation form consumers' best defence. They say Bill Gates, its chairman, is making the most of what history suggests will be a small window of opportunity to make hig profits. There is something in this, although their moral high ground is eroded by Mr Gates' famously aggressive tactics to lengthen his historical opportunity.

Existing competition law was drawn up in the early part of this century when the US government decided to humble the original "robber barons" of capitalism. They, too, had exploited economics of scale and natural monopolies, but of a more tangible variety. It will be harder for policymakers to tackle the veightless forms of increasing returns, in the batdegrounds of marketing and distribution and intellectual property rather than production. But that is the nettle hey need to grasp.

provided. (Still unresolved, with \*http://www.slate.com/Features/ a decision due from the MMC Krugman/Krugman.asp and Unilever promising to chalavailable via the 'Life of Brian: lenge any unfavourable ruling a symposium" link on Paul anyway.) The broad principle is Krugman's web page at the same as Microsoft trying to http://web.mit.edu/krugman/www

> \*\* I have written about this in my own book, The Weightless World, Capstone 1997.

### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

لمكذا من ألاصل

IOHN WILLCOCK



FLICKING through the annual report for Emerson Electric I spot a familiar face. For it seems that Sir Bob Horton, chairman of Railtrack, is a director of the US electronics giant. Emerson, of course, has incurred the wrath of the City with its rather clumsy bid to take control of Astec (BSR), a manufacturer of power supplies.

Emerson, you may recall, already owns 51 per cent of Astec, and last month chief operating officer George Tamke told the remaining shareholders he would offer them 111p - the prevailing market price - for their shares. If they refused, Emerson would remove three independent directors from Astec's board and halt its dividend payments.

The shareholders were sufficiently enraged to break their usual anonymity and publicly express their disgust. A few of them, including respectable fund managers such as Royal & SunAlliance, Clerical Medical and Equitable Life, are even planning to take Emerson to court later this week, claiming unfair prejudice.

Which leaves Sir Bob in a rather tricky situation. Because most of these institutional shareholders also bave holdings in Railtrack. And while Emerson might be a able to live with the disapproval of the City, Sir Bob cannot afford to be so gung-ho. What will he do? Watch this space.

BG, formerly British Gas, has snapped up the recently retired head of the British Diplomatic Service, Sir John Coles, as a non-executive director. This seems like a good move by the company, because it is concentrating more on overseas exploration and production since it split off its household supply business, Centrica.

Sir John, 60, has a working knowledge of more than 70 countries. He retired as Permanent Secretary in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office last November after a career which included advising Margaret Thatcher and three successive Foreign Secretaries.

The much travelled diplomat is currently on holiday in Australia. If he ever gets round to writing his memoirs they would make a fascinating read. He was Private Secretary to Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands War, and prin-

cipal policy adviser to Douglas Hurd, Malcolm Rifkind and Robin Cook. Pressing the flesh on behalf of a gas company should be a piece of cake in comparison.

ARE THE ladies taking over football? You've heard of Karen Brady, chairman of Birmingham City. Now welcome Virginie Lannevere, a football analyst with Salomon

Smith Barney. "Not only am I a woman, I'm French as well - isn't it awful," she laughs. She first started covering footy clubs in February 1997 and has just published a note advising clients to stay neutral on Tottenham Hotspur.

So does she support a chib? "No way. Although if I was to choose it would be Manchester." City, I presume. Her real passion is for rugby, and she claims to have supported England when they were trounced by France in Paris 10 days ago. "But I can't deny I was happy with the result," she adds.

NOW HERE'S a good idea: drinking beer for charity. I don't suppose it's much of a surprise to discover that the Hogshead City Beer Challenge, due to kick off on 2 March, is the dreamchild of a bunch of rugby players. Perhaps La Lannevere would like to take part.

And the rugby players are a distinguished bunch. The charity involved, the Richard Langhorn Trust, is headed by Peter Winterbottom. the former England open-side flanker whom Will Carling once described as "the hardest

forward I've ever met". The trust was set up in 1994 in memory of Harlequins and England player Richard Langhorn, a popular character in the City where he worked. The Hogshead Pub Company, part of Whitbread Inns, has invited up to 80 City firms to take part in the challenge at four Hogshead pubs in the Square Mile.

It might sound as if a "beer challenge" is a challenge to drink as much beer as you can, but in fact the contestants will merely be asked to identify half a pint of real ale from a list of 20 beers, over eight "rounds".

Loads of rugby hearties like Brian Moore and Mick "the Munch" Skinner will attend, as well as the 1997 Guild of Beer Writers' writer of the year, Roger Protz. Hogshead says Mr Propz will act as a "sommelier" to the four events. Surely a more robust, beery title could be used. How about "beermeister"?

SCOTIA, the drugs developer, has asked me to point out that Gerry Lafferty has been appointed to the new role of group services director, as well as taking over as company secretary. He will not be head of medical manufacturing, as I suggested earlier this week, that role going to the newly appointed director, Dr Alastair Selkirk.

FREEPAGES Group, the consumer information service which operates under the Scoot trade name in the UK, has appointed John Coleman as managing director of Scoot (UK).

Mr Coleman was managing director of the Brinks group, the old Brinks Mat company which transports high value goods such as

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Dollar D-Mark Spot 1 month 3 month Spot 06108 06127 03349 France 12807 37400 14319 6,9108 10892 5,4960 6,0728 18120 298,98 7,7890 1,3612 1797,4 124,78 3,8385 20,974 61,456 2,3464 11,347 15063 90,304 99,760 47,344 12,692 12,018 29,408 20,602 62,509 12813 37595 14341 69405 10858 55256 61036 118213 28723 77455 13630 17953 32633 36150 85310 205794 76090 18641 37508 16460 49445 15425 16405 16400 16005 1600 21008 61639 2.3579 1.5100 90594 10,007 2,9662 470,93 12,699 12,029 12,029 12,029 12,029 13,3651 2,6350 12,475 3,05,62 12,811 37,538 14,332 6,9310 10,869 5,5158 6,0937 18,184 29,918 17,7525 17,963 12,5,84 3,8181 70349
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### Interest Rates

725% Germany Discount Lombard 330% Canada 4.50% Discount Fed Fund 4.50% 4 51 0.04
2.55 -0.07
4.55 -0.07
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Belgum
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ECU
France
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Japan
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Swedo
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UK
US Money Market Rates DEOR
Domestic Depos
Eurosterling Deps
Eligible Bank Bills
Sterling CDs
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ECU Deposits 7.44 750 747 753 728 722 7.47 739 5.55 4.22 4.34 Source: Bloomberg www.bioomberg.com/uk

Contract				Settlement	High	Low	Pat floor	Open
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italian Bone	ď	Mar-6	8	118.61	118.90	76.53	52546	16907
Japan Gov	t Bd	Mar-6	8	12988	129.72	12963	3794	. D
3 Mth Steri		Mar-9		92.45	92.48	9244	13839	129938
	-0	Jun-9		92.53	92.57	9250	51196	133044
3 Mth Euro	mark			98.47	9648	9846	44889	360901
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## Nightmare exit for the 'Dream Team'

### Winter Olympics

Mike Rowbottom reports from Nagano

THEY came, they saw, they weot back home. Just six days after their first appearance in these Games, the United States ice bockey team, crammed full of top National Hockey League players, was dumped out of the competition by Czech Republic.

After their 4-1 quarter-final defeat, the Americans - who have not won a medal in this competition since their team of college boys upset the mighty Soviet Union in the 1980 final - had a playing record as follows: played 4, won 1, lost 3.

CBS television, the American rights holders for the Games, had scheduled the match to go out live after the David Lenerman show.

The result means CBS have lost one of their prime draws for the Games at a distressingly early stage. Not what was required, especially given the early indications that US viewing figures for these Games are down by a third on what they were for the 1994 Olympics.

The professional and highly paid NHL players, allowed into the Games for the first time here, were spread across many nationalities. "We don't bave a Dream Team," Gary Bettman, the NHL Commissioner, said. "We have a Dream Tournament,"

of NHL players was the flagship in a what was a promodonal exercise on a huge scale. But after this dismal showing, the NHL franchise shop which has opened just around the corner from the Big Hat rink is unlikely to be doing much husiness in United States shirts.

everybody expected us to be there at the end," the US forward Keith Tkachuk said, "We expected to be there at the end. But it didn't turn out that way.

It's gonna be a long flight home." The reception at the other end is not likely to be rapturous,



Shock slip-up: The United States ice hockey forward Keith Tkachuk takes a tumble as the Czech goaltender Dominik Hasek and his rearguard block the goal Photograph: Allsport

their only goal, acknowledged: the Buffalo Sabres - named the total score - with 0.5pts as op-"We have to go back and face the consequences," he said. We are going to have to answer For all that, the US collection some questions, since there was a lot of expectation here."

For the Czechs, however, the home reaction was enormous in a country which regards ice hockey as it's No 1 sport.

"I rang my girlfriend before the match and she told me everyone was watching on televisioo and in the cinemas," said Mar-"It's disappointing, because tin Straka, who made the Czechs" equalising gool. They were even showing it on TV in the schools." The Czechs had 12 NHL

players in their squad of 23 and it was one of those representatives - goalteoder Dominik Hasek - whose contribution proved decisive.

The 33-year-old Hasek from

valuable player - did to the American forwards what Patrick Roy of Canada had done in the last of the round-robin matches, denying them at every turn.

The two goaltenders will come face to face in tomorrow's semi-finals, following Canada's 4-1 defeat of Kazakhstan. Russia, who beat Belarus and crying," she said. "You by the same score, contest the can't control the judges." other semi-final with Finland, who defeated Sweden, the Olympic title holders, 2-1.

Michelle Kwan, whom most women's figure skating title tomorrow if she avoids serious errors, has taken a firm step towards that goal. The 17-yearprogramme - worth one-third of ski.

three times as the NHI's most posed to the 1pt of her rival and compatriot, Tara Lipinski. Russia's Maria Buryrskaya stood third and China's Lu Chen fourth.

Surya Bonaly, the veteran French skater, ended up sixth and frustrated with the panel. "After 10 years, I am used to it. I am tired of crying and crying

Bjoern Dahlie, Norway's cross-country skier, won a record seventh Winter Olympics gold medal by the observers believe will win the stretch of a leg. The 4x10km relay came down to a sprint io which Thomas Alsgaard, Norway's last man, finished 0.2sec ahead of the Italian Silold American won the short vio Fauner by sticking out his

### Negano results and timetable

n) Early 1:40:55.9 Alberolo, S Fauner, F May, F Valtusa) Fintend 1:42:55. Isometsas, H Kirvesnismi, M Mytylias, S

### Henman to lose top-20 distinction

### Tennis

BRITAIN'S Greg Rusedski had a much harder fight than expected before beating Hicham Arazi 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the European Community Championship in Antwerp yesterday while Tim Henmao, the British No 2, suffered his fourth consecutive first-round defeat when he was beaten 7-5, 6-2 by Magnus Norman of Sweden.

Rusedski, the British No 1, dropped a place to ninth in the world rankings on Monday because he lost the points gained from reaching the final of the San Jose tournament in the United States 12 months ago. Yesterday he was much more powerful than Arazi, but the Moroccan left-hander more than matched Rusedski in the baseline rallies. Though Rusedski served 18 aces to three by Arazi, there was often little to choose between the two.

Because Henman reached the final of this event last year, he will lose more than 200 world ranking points. It will send him out of the top 20 in the world rankings for the first time since 6 October when the next list is announced by ATP on Monday.

However, Henman will have one consolation. Because he missed more than two months of the season from the end of March last year following an elbow operation, he has no more ranking points to defend until the Nortingham tournament in June. "I'll still be a top-25 player," he said. "Of course it's disappointing, but I know I'm good enough to work hard on the practice court and it will soooer or later pay off on the match court."

● Steffi Graf enjoyed a two-set (): win yesterday in her first singles match in over eight months, at the Hannover Grand Prix. Displaying no signs of the knee inury that threatened to end her career, she beat her fellow German, Andrea Glass, 6-4,

## THE INDEPENDENT

## £10 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10







Valid berween Sazurday February 14th	and Friday February 20
Name	
Address	

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

### How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the to-

### INDEPENDENT

The Independent offer is available at the following restaurants:

Bluebird 350 King's Road, London, SW3 5UU Lunch 12noon - 3pm; early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Cafe The Design Museum, 28 Shad Tharnes London, SEI 2YE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm?

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames

0171 403 8403 Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm

Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm closed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday, 12pm - 4pm -

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SWIY 0171 930 6767 Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5,30pm -

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF

The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until

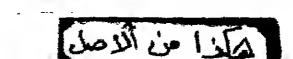
The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants Closed from 6pm on Sunday
 Offer not available after 6pm on

### With our Passat costing as little as £15,320, nobody could accuse us of being greedy.

Furthermore, power steering, ABS, twin airbags, engine immobiliser, central locking, electric front windows, a fully galvanised body and 11-year anti-perforation warranty also come served up with that 'on the road' price.

Surprisingly ordinary prices





## لمكذا من ألاصل

## Down denies writing 'humbug'

ALASTAIR DOWN, writer of headlined: "Contempt for the hy every word he had written. The Sporting Life article at the punter", said people on the in the High Court yesterday with counsel representing racehorse trainer Lynda Ramsden, her husband Jack and champion jockey Kieren Fallon.

Down was giving evidence on the 12th day of the case in which the Ramsdens and Fallon are seeking damages over allegations in the Life that they had cheated the racing public. They claim that they were the victims of a "savage verbal onslaught" Mirror Group, publishers of the Life, maintain the article try. was true in substance, fact or fair

Down, associate editor of the

comment on a matter of pub-

racecourse and in betting shops had been furious about the run by the Ramsden-trained Top Cees in the Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket prior to the horse going on to win the 1995

Chester Cup three wecks later. Richard Harrley QC, for the Life, asked Down: "What did you think of Kieren Fallon's

Down: "I thought the horse was not off." Hartley: "Meaning?"

Down: "Meaning he did not

Cross-examined by Patrick Milmo QC, for the plaintiffs, Down rejected allegations that paper and author of the article Life were "humbug". He stood other colleagues.

Down explained that he had been present at Newmarket for the Swaffham, watching the race on a television monitor in the press room, Journalist col-

leagues had questioned the riding of Top Cees by Fallon, maintaining that the 5-I favourite had not been ridden to its ful) potential - although a stewards' inquiry accepted an explanation from the trainer and the jockey that Top Cees had been held up for a late run but then failed to get a gap through which to challenge. On the day of the Chester

Cup, Down said he had been in the Life offices and had watched the race with the paper's editor, his opinions and those of the Tom Clarke, and three or four

Looking at the Chester run, compared with Fallon's riding at Newmarket, he saw them as completely different. At Chester there had been more "aggression" and more effort to get around horses in front.

Down said: "Fallon was

great, and eager to want to get the best ride out of his horse. He is a cracking jockey. We were fully cognisant of what grave allegations the paper was making. I thought the way the horse had been run at Newmarket and in the Chester Cup meant that in a sense the racing public had had their noses rubbed in it."

He saw one of the most parts of his job as being looking after the interests of punters who had no other voice in racing.

about the National Union of Journalists' code of conduct. which warned against the dangers of presenting comment and conjecture as established fact. Down denied doing this and added: "It gave me no pleasure to write it." He admitted that he had been wrong to include words suggesting that the Chester racecourse switchboard had been jammed

Cup result. This information had been passed on to him by n Life reporter on the spot. Geoff Lester, who had said he had been given the information by track officials.

with calls complaining about the

There was no question of the

Down was asked by Milmo well known gamhler, of completing some sort of coup thanks to Top Cees victory. But Down told the court that Ramsden had tried on occasion to outflank the racing authorities and exploit the system.

Earlier in the case Mr Ramsden had admitted making £100,000 in his best gambling year. Down said: "In that case he would have been £102,000 shead of me."

Milmo declared that the leading article was "pure humbug" and referred Down to an article he had written in the Sporting Life's Weekender about the victory of Old Red in the 1995 Cesarewitch at Newmarket, where Top Cees came third.



Down: Wrote article

Reveley, had been subject to previous stewards' inquiries when the horse had run "with all the success of a veal butcher at a vegan food festival".

Milmo said: "You were just writing for style." Down replied that it was untrue. There was no comparison between Top Cees and Old Red. Mrs Reveley had broken no rule and achieved a

The hearing continues today.

year. I would say we would stay

another year hurdling to get a

little more experience into

Britain's chasers. For the na-

tion's turfistes a similar sensation

will be felt more immediately if

black shapes start being stuck

That is warming news for

### Watford may host New Zealand Test

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

HUDDERSFIELD, Bolton and Watford have all heen carmarked as possible venues for a Test series against New Zealand that will add an international dimension to the

coming season. With plans for a World Cup or a triangular tournament in Australia apparently coming to nothing, a five-match tour by the Kiwis in November is now the likely option.

Although series between the two countries have traditionally been close and entertaining. New Zealand have not been a big enough draw to justify the use of stadia like Wembley, Old Trafford and Elland Road - where Great Britain played Australia last year.

But medium-sized grounds like the McAlpine Stadium and the Reebok Stadium are seen as ideal, whilst Watford's Vicarage Road - already home to Saracens - is close enough to London to draw on the expatriate New Zealand community there. Watford are already hidding for one of Super League's fixtures "on the road" in July.

"We cannot yet confirm the venues, but the plans are already well advanced," said a Rughy League spokesman. New Zealand beat Great Britain 3-0 in the series there in 1996 and also won one of their Tests against Australia last year.

Swansea, who also hope to stage a Super League game in July, have submitted an application for a Super League side of their own from next season.

St Helens are considering taking their match against Warrington to Anfield on 26 April. A similar experiment against Castleford drew over 12,000 to Anfield last year - Saints' higgest "home" gate of the sea-

Meanwhile. Warrington's Adam Fogerty will be fit for his side's more immediate anpointment against Saints, his former cluh. The two sides meet in the Challenge Cup on 28 February and Fogerty says he will have recovered from the thich muscle injury that kept him out of the fourth-round victory over Wakefield.

### notable training success. Down had pointed out that Life accusing Jack Ramsden, a Old Red, trained by Mrs Mary Holly hurdles for kicks but trainer keeps his feet on the ground

AS the sun beats down and the early periscopes of daffodils appear in our gardens, Johnny Public seems quite happy with life. For racing purists, however, there are still clouds around.

Dry weather up until Cheltenham next month may well mean that some of the better younger horses in these islands are removed from the Festival with their future careers in mind. This would be most hurtful in the case of French Holly, almost certainly the largest two hurdler in the land, and without doubt the most promis-

The seven-year-old gelding has a list of engagements that Holly's races this season has would embarrass even Elizabeth

Sandown

1.50 Fleet Cadet

2.50 Alhosaam

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2.20 Knight's Crest

Ferdy Murphy will not hesitate to save his Champion Hurdle hope for rainier days. Richard Edmondson reports

none of them will be fulfilled if the track at Prestbury Park is not substantially visited by rain, "If it's good to firm it might be that he would not run at all," Ferdy Murphy, the gelding's trainer, said. "It would be heartbreaking to miss it, but we've waited this long with him and he'll be even better next year.

"I don't mind running horses on flat tracks, hut when you're travelling downhill at speed that's when you do a lot of damage."

The destruction in French been wreaked by the horse

HYPERION

GOING: Chase course - Good to Firm (Good in places); Hurdles course - Good to

Firm.

• Right-hand course; seven testing tences along back streight; run-in of 300yds.

• Course is on ASO7, 4 miles south of Kingston, Eisher station (service from London, Westerloo) asforms course. ADMISSION: Cub £16, Junior Cub (17 - 21yrs) £12; Grangstand 8. Paddock £10, Park £5, CAR PARK: £2 in members (More Lane), remainder frea.

• LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 23-89 (258%), J Gifford 17-136 (25%), J Old 14-48 (292%), M Henderson 10-89 (112%), O Sherwood 8-44 (82%), P Hobbs 8-45 (178%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody 24-105 (229%), A Meguire 20-88 (233%), A P Mc-Coy 15-77 (195%), M A Fitzgerald 11-108 (102%), G Bradley 10-84 (119%).

• BLINGERED FIRST TIME: Royal Arctic (visored) (430); Danzante (visored) (430).

1.50 FAIRMILE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,840

Minimum engict: 10st. True handicap weight: Ban Bowden 9st 7to BETTING: 5-2 Fleet Cedet, 190-30 Betmanite,4-1 Nordence Prince, 13-2 Bend Sabla, 7-1 Stram, 8-1 Claritani Queen, 12-1 Ben Bowden, 20-1 Wishing SS7 Destiner 7 it 9 D Wish 11-8 for (M Ppe) 5 ran FORM GUIDE Between 1 Cracking from having won her two starts, both at her local track, rhundingdon, and she acts on the fast ground. However she is set to give 8th to FLEET CADET and Martin Pipe's runner may have the edge. The seven-year-old, who represents his stable in preference to last weeks 12-tength Newbury winner Ken Risk, had his

sems his stable in preference to last weeks' 12-langth Newbury winner Ken Risk, had his first two races this season over fences, finishing numer-up behind Drummond Warmer on his debut at Worcester in July. He reverted to hurding after being pulled up at the same track the following month: it was soft when Fleet Codet landed the odds at Laborter in December but he also acts well on a test surface. Before that, he toppled over at the first flight in A S Jan's race at Warwick when kying a close third and holding every chance. He is again partnered by Gerry Supple, who has been aboard for each of the selection's seven victories (six last term). Nordance Prince was on a hat-trick when beater four lengths by Jamaccan Fight at Towceder in May and was racing for the first time strice when a nine-length rumer-up to Flying Instructor on his chasing debut at Haydock four weeks ago. He should not be far away on his return to the smaller obstacles here despite being on top weight. Ben Subte didn't do badly when beaten six lengths by Storm Tiger at Wardsor but is without a win since November 1994. Setection: FLEET CADET

2.20 SUMMIT CONFERENCES & MEETINGS NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 3m 110yds 23,631

- 6 declared 
Miramum weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Elecus 9st 13tb, Noddys Express 9st 4tb

SET INOCH: 5-4 Kolghrs Creat, 2-1 Swing Quertet, 4-1 Lord Rooble, 8-1 Elecus, 25-1 Bellydougen,
33-1 Noddys Express

1967 Hawairan Sam 7 til 2 G Crone 2-1 (A Turnell) 4 ran
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

NOTIGHT'S CREST, half-brother to high-class staying chaser Ten Plus, was an irish point with the staying chaser Ten Plus, was an irish point with the 1986 and shaped extremely well on only his second outing over regulation fances at Doncaster three weeks back. Kright's Crest was always to the fore and stayed on well to run The Toiseach to half a length, the pair 14 longths clear. The Toiseach give the form a considerable boost when coming form by 29 lengths in Ascot last week and Kright's Crest locks worth an interest, Swing Charlet would probably have finished second to Strong Tarquin on her chasing bow at Newton Abbot last season except for falling at the last and, after two more disappointments over fecces, was confined to hurding for the rest of last term. Nigel Twicton-Device mare had her first two outings this season over hurdes, being pulled up and the unplaced. She was also out of the trame when put back to chasing in Mr Strong Galets race at Ludow over Christmas but was an eightength runner-up behind Ramalish at Towcester a fortnight ago. Lord Rooble was well beaten at Windsor last time.

2.50 NFU NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,866

3.25 Storm Alert

3.55 Lucky Dollar

4.30 Mr Bojangle's

Taylor, but it could well be that himself. He is now unbeaten in tually abuses them. "When he's had damaged himself when do with the fact that he should last three victories have been at the expense of horses who went on to score 11 victories between them. In racing, we call that

> A notable feature of this sequence, in particular in Huntingdon's Sidney Banks Memorial Novices' Hurdle last Thursday, is French Holly's development of a new hurdling technique. In rugby, they would call it hursting through a crash

It is said some horse show no respect for their hurdles. French Holly goes one step on and ac-

FORM GUIDE

COUNTRY & EAU was all at sea on the actif ground when unplaced in the Tolworth Hurdia won by French Holy from Grey Shot here as weeks ego and will be a different proposition back on this fast ground and in this much leaser company. Jeff Kingle charge had three humper runs test term, winning the last two and beating the odds-on Arctic Camper two and and a half lengths when a 50-1 shot here a year ago. Country Beau, fifter being beaten more then two lengths by Cherrymore at Newbury in November on his first ettempt over timber, justified favouritism over course and distance the following month: Namoodal) landed his first two naces this season, at Market Rasen and Artitree in November and was runner-up to Serenus at Huntingdon but was well behind when pulled up before the last is Guitteridge's race at Cheitarham. Second sport may go to Fernity Man, third behind Dawn Lepder at Huntingdon four weeks ago on only his second appearance and bound to progress.

Selection: COUNTRY BEAU

3.25 LONDESBOROUGH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m Penalty Value £7,046

3.55 WILFRED JOHNSTONE HONE 1.590 22,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £1,590

314-21 LUCKY DOLLAR (P11) (C) (D) (hits 5 S-Bessian) S S-Bessian 10 12 4...Miles P Robson (5 16P-32 ARCHIES DATS (P12) (CD) Lion Trice-Robel) Jon Time-Robel 9 12 1 Mr J Trice-Robel (S

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

LUCKY DOLLAR landed the Royal Artillery Gold Cup over an extended three miles on good to firm going at this course in March despite being hampered at the sixth and blundering at the final fence and he was also successful at Wordsster and Ludiow last term. The ten-year-old is in good order after winning a point fo-point at Whitton Castle - he was a length and a half runner-up at Ahrwick before that on his reappearance with the third 25 lengths admit - and should prove too strong for his four rivals here. Pick of them hight be Archile Cats, who went in over course and distance in March and is also in form, having finished second at Kingston Blount recently. Selection: LUCKY DOLLAR

4.30 SPRING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Valua £3,048

0 -32008 CALVARO (24) (58 Naylor) J Gifferd 7 10 0. 10 -0330 DANZANTE (40) (Dand Halturs) R Stronge 9 100 . 25 PP.554 QUEEN OF THE SURF (76) R.1. Scorge) N Machel 9 100 . 13 580-00 THE BIZZO (13) (J F Parven) J Parven 7 10 0.

MISTER GENEROSITY (91) (Mrs J M Jeyes) C Weedon 7 10 0 ....

—14 deciared —

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weighst: Kingadown Trix Sat 12b, Calvaro Sat 12b, Denzanto Sat 6b, Queen Of The Suir Sat. The Bizzo Sat 5b, Mater Generodly Bat 1b.

68, Queen Of The Suit Set, The Bizzo Set St., Mainr Generody Set 12b, Calvero Set 12b, Denzente Set BETTING: 7-2 Roaring Spring, 4-1 Royal Arctic, 5-1 Mr Bojangles, 13-2 Bright Flame, 8-1 Desphorg, 9-1 Kinnshella, 10-1 Highland Jack, 12-1 Loch Ne Keel, 14-1 Calvera, Kingadown Thiz, 16-1 Denzente, Queen Of the Suir, 33-1 The Bizzo, 50-1 Mater Generoelly 1997: Lough Euly 7 to 3 J Osborne 6-1 (F. Jorden) 11 ran
FORMA GSUDE
Formerly trained by Mouse Morris. ROARNAG SEDERAG 1-

Formerly trained by Mouse Morris, ROARING SPRING is now with Nick Henderson and had been off the course since the spring of 1996 when fourth behind leitoff on his British debut at Kempton five weeks ago. The Callemisti geldoling was staying on at the finish debut at Kempton five weeks ago. The Callemisti geldoling was staying on at the finish after being outpaced three flights out and will be more at home over today's longer journey. Furthermore, he doesn't appear harship treated in his his first handloop, Royal Archic, who is in a first-time visor, best Bozo in good style at Kempton before a two-and-e-hath-length second to Kit Smartie at Huntingdon and could prove troublesome though he would prefer some give underloot. Bright Fisame and file Bolyangles are both on hist-tricks and of the pair the latter is preferred even if his wins were at lower grade tracks Lucitow and Southwell and he hasn't been out since early December, Richard Durwoodly tales the ride. Decyborg, who has run twice over tences this season, was been out of sight when third to Halle Derring when reverting a hundling at Kempton last time but was eased once bestern and will not be far away on his best form even under 12 stone.

WILFRED JOHNSTONE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H)

4-3352 STORM ALERT (12) (CD) (Mrs Dawn Petrett) D Michelson 12 12 D......

FORM GUIDE

four races over hurdles, and his out in front like that he doesn't bother shortening up at a hurdle, he just goes and kicks them out of the way and goes straight through," Murphy said.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Perpetual Light (Lingfield 2.30) NB: Camilla's Legacy (Taunton 3.45)

"He's so big he gets away with it. A smaller horse might hurt himself. Next time now we bope be will pick up."

It was initially feared that this Meadowlark Lemon of a horse

Selection: EDREDON BLEU

\_\_A Thornton \

crashing his 18 hands through not be running over them at all. the woodwork last week, but he has quickly disproved that idea with his work on the gallops at Wynhury Stables near Leyburn in North Yorkshire. "We schooled him on Tuesday and he

jumped absolutely fantastic,"

Murphy said, "We gave him a

four-furlong breeze after that

and he's 110 per cent sound. "I'm absolutely over the moon with the horse now, He didn't have a race, he's eaten

everything up since he came back and he couldn't be better." timber may have something to was immediate."

**HYPERION** 

2.10 Major Change 2.40 Sergeyev 3.15 Fight-ing Times 3.45 Jet Files 4.20 DEVON PEAS-ANT (nap) 4.50 Indian Delight 5.20 Pontevedra

GOING: Hurdle course – Good to Firm; Chases course – Good to Firm (Good in places).

Glight-hand course. Run-in of 150yds.

Gourse is 3 of town on BS170, Taunion station 2m. ADMISSION: Members £11; Paddock £9; Centre of Course £5, CAR PARK Centre of course £3; remainder fires.

LEADING TRAINERS; M Pipe 40-204 (186%). P Hobbs 26-108 (245%). B Northers £16 (196%).

OLEADING TRANSERS: M Prot 40-204 (186%), P Hobots 26-106 (245%), B Hodges 15-06 (10%), Miss H Kright 8-34 (235%), OLEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 23-114 (202%), C Maude 13-86 (53%), T Dancombe 11-98 (112%), G Tormey 10-52 (192%), ⊕FAVOURITES; 150-405 (37%), BUNKERED FRIST TIME; Bear Hug (315), Storm Point (345), Spinsh Of Blakensy (viscosd) (5:20).

2.10 BLACKDOWN MAIDEN HURDLE

BLACKDOWN MAIDEN HURDLE

(CLASS E) (Div I) £3,000 added 2m 1f

Taunton

The world, it seems, is now a fruits de mer for French Holly. "If we get the ground and run in the Champion [Hurdle], and run well in it, we've got the op-His breeding, if not his shape, tion of running in that again is all Flat and his sire is the 1968 next year," Murphy said. Derby winner Sir Ivor. The son "If we go for the 2m 5f race may not possess his father's con-Ithe Royal SunAlliance figuration, but he has certainly Novices' Hurdle] we've got the inherited some of the family option of the staying races next

"I was quite chuffed with the way he quickened up at Huntingdon," Murphy said. "Andrew [Thornton, the jockey] had to get serious with him and he just lowered his weight in the saddle and squeezed the horse. Andrew said it was very im-French Holly's attitude to pressive because the reaction

## on the television weather maps.

Assauration visigns as a second visit of the s

3.45 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (Qualifier) (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m
1 FazP23 THURSDAY NIGHT (S) P Nichols 7 tl 3 Mr J Tizzard (5)
2 5-F4P3 DUMLER (31) (C) P Rodford 8 10 10
9 F2-010 GENTLEMAN JUM (73) C Pophent 9 10 10 13 Tortney
4 OP-210 JET FILES (40) Mrs J Pinnan 7 10 10
5 P-PUSP MOORLOUGH BAY (52) (D) H Home 9 10 10
9 -5400U NODDADANTE (10) N Michel 9 10 10,G Uplon
7 DOP/PP STORM POINT (55) H Home 10 10 10
9 0-2UFP CAMILLAS LEGACY (12) H Colo 7 10 5T Descombs
BETTING: 13-8 Jet Files, 9-4 Thursday Night, 11-2 Gentleman Jim, 7-1
Duralit, 8-1 Carnillian Lagarry, 12-1 Modelaritente, 20-1 Moorkough Bay, 25-1 Storm Point

4.20 FEBRUARY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yda 2955 - RIVER ROOM (434) (D) C Pophem 8 11 10\_Mr D McPhell (5) -251FF MRS EM (76) P Nichols 8 11 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ L Computes (5) 2 - 2017 ISS BER (17) PEASANT (19) L.G Cotted 8 11 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. L. Jedoud
4 - 30-014 SIBSERIAM NYSTIC (52) (C) P Murphy 5 11 8 \_\_\_\_\_ T. J. Murphy
5 - 203-41 NEVER IN DEBT (28) (CD) A Hobos 9 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ T. J. Murphy
6 - 53823 WADADA (8) D Burchel 7 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_ D. Burchel 7
7 11246F FRIONTER FLIGHT (13) (CD) Mes L. Bodell 9 10 12 E Husband (3)
8 - 25-563 BEYOND OUR REACH (10) R Hodges 10 10 7 \_\_\_ T. Descombe

BETTING: 11-4 Devon Pensant, 4-1 Never in Debt, 9-2 Mrs En, 5-1 Siber-lan Mystic, 6-1 Whiteda, 8-1 Beyond Our Reach, 10-1 Frontier Flight, 14-1 River Rouse

4.50 CHEDDAR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 

5.20 CRANMORE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added fillies & mares 3m 110yds PORLOCK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE -10 dec

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Lady Kay-Lee Sst 9th, Madem Polly Rst 1th, Spiesh Of Blateney Bet 13th. BETTING: 9-4 Theme Arena, 100-30 Pontevedra, 4-1 Hil Manthe, 5-1 La Manorquina, 8-1 Song Of Kaeda, 10-1 Sparkfing Buck, 14-1 Roele-B, 25-1

### Davis date for Doherty

### Snooker

JOHN HIGGINS and Ken Doherty enjoyed convincing thirdround victories at the Regal Scottish Open in Aberdeen yesterday. The world champion, Doherty, beat Gerard Greene 5-0 in 75 minutes, while Higgins, the world No 2, came through by the same scoreline against Lancashire's Stuart Pettman.

Higgins now meets Martin Clark while Doherty plays the six-times former world champion, Steve Davis. "I might have had three centuries in the first three frames," said Doherty, who opened with a break of 101 and then added runs of 94 and 80. "That's the strong part of my game and, if I can hold my own safety-wise against Steve, I know I will score a lot heavier than him '

## 201 1 TUYCIS Penalty Value £2,865 1 0-12P NAMOODAL (19) (D) (Al The Kingh Men) D Ncholson 5 11 12 A Maguire 11-26 COUNTRY BEAU (40) (CD) (Alb J J Pepnalty J King 8 11 9 A Dummoody 5 55 FAMELY MAN (29) Framity Man Pennsantin) J Farshawe 5 11 4 A Dobbin 6 FP HAMALAYAM BLUE (20) (Alte E H Heart) Mins E Heath 8 11 4 D Galleyher 6 D PALACE GUARD (13) (Fugh Doubtin) G Erright 6 11 4 Mins S Danack (S) 6 33 PHARSTAR (718) (8P) (W W W & Mins E S Robers) N Hendesson 7 11 4 Min A Fitzgerald 7 C2 ALHOSAAM (5) (Speedine Telecom) G L Moore 4 10 8 A P NeCoy BETTING: 4-5 Country Beau, 3-1 Nemocodel, 7-2 Family Men, 8-1 Albosaem, 6-1 Phenster, 50-1 Himsleyan Blue, Patace Guard 997 Juyush 5 11 12 J Osborne 1-6 tay (J Old) 11 (8R)

Results LINGFIELD 2.00: 1. SUPPLY AND DEMAND (R Dun-2.00: 1. SUPPLY AND DEMAND (R.Dun-woody) 4-5 lav: 2. Ite De Librate 15-2; 3. General Assembly 33-1 10 ran. 1/4, 15. (G I. Moore, Brighton). Tota: \$170; \$100, \$150, \$250. DF; \$400. CSF: \$277. This: \$300. NF: Fourdaned. Fourdaned was withdrawn not under review. Dut 4 frees not anniv. under orders. Rule 4 does not apply.

2.30: 1. FULIP (Mr T Doumen) Evens lev. 2. Who Am I 16-1; 3. Crosa's Delight 10-1.

IINDEPE	ND	ENT
RACING 0891	SERV 26	1 +
SANDOWN	971	981
TAUNTON	972	982
UNGFIELD	973	983
0891 2	SES RESU 619	70

10 nm. 28, 16. (F Doumen, France). Total: 52:30; £160, £350, £380, DF: £2330, CSF: £1880. Trio: £7900. NR: Litening Conductor. 3.00: 1. TORBOY (A P McCoy) 5-1; 2. Fu-Byama Crest 4-5 fav; 3. Rupert Blues 10-1 15 ran. 15, 5. (M Pipe Wellington) Toke: £750; £160, £120, £330. DF: £530. CSF: £815. Tho: £4750. NR: Riveraide Stroll.

24750. NR: Riverside Strol.

3.90; 1. WALTER'S DESTINY (S McNeil)
8-1; 2. North End Lady 6-1; 3. Hawthorne
Glen 18-1 13 nm. 4-1 fav Side My Side (4th)
3 2. (C Mitchell, Dortchester). Tota: £8.20;
£2.30; £4.20; £3.90. DF: £24.20; £5; £45.33.
Thicsst: £5.858.58. Thio: £222.30.

Theast: \$538.58. Trio: \$222.30.
4.00: 1. TICKERTY'S GIFT (A P McCoy)
7.2; 2. Erfking 5-8 lar; 3. Poly Amenshae
9-2. 5 ran. 1½, 3½, (G L Mcora, Brighton).
Tote: \$360; \$190 £190 DF: \$310 CSF: \$1028.
4.30: 1. HOLLAND HOUSE (Mr C Vigors) 11-10: 2. Double Silk Evens fav; 3.
Sirisat 11-1 4 ran. Hd, dist. (P Chaminga,
Bearingstoke). Tote: \$2200 DF: £130, CSF:
\$248.

5.00: 1. DRAGON LORD (R Durnecody) 5-8 fav; 2. Rockcliffe Gossip 5-1; 3. Kingsmark 7-1 20 ran. 1/k, 5 (Lady Her-ries, Littleisempton). Total: 5360; E140, E240, EA70. DF: £1540. CSF: £1222. Tho: £4750. pot: £4170. Quadpot: £1740.

Place 0: 25707. Place 5: 24031. MUSSELBURGH 2.20: 1. MARAUD (M H Neughton) 8-4 fav. Sparky 5-1; 3. Reeds 14-1; 10 ran. 4, 11/2.

(L Lloyd-James, Malton): Tota: £260; £110. £210, £350 DF: £580 CSF £853 Trio: £1410. 2.50: 1. UK HYGENE (Mr.C Borner) 8-1; 2. Jack Yests 2-1; 3. Falcon's Flame 9-1. 6 ran. 5-4 fay China King (fail) 3, 2 (M Ham-mond, Middelham). Total: £220; £330, £110. DF: £1190. CSF: £2358.

3.20: 1. INDIANA PRINCESS (P Niveri) 3.20: 1. INDIANA PRINCESS (P. Niveri) 9-2: 2. Mapte Bay 9-2; 3. Tirwelfi 4-1. 2 ran. 1-4 fav Best Of All (4th) 1/4, 1/4. (Mrs. M Rev-eloy, Saithurn). Tota: 58-50; 52-50. 52-50. DF: 57-40. CSF: 522-52. 3.50: 1. CAMPTOSAURUS (A Doobin) 20-1; 2. Biberrack 20-1; 3. Wudimp 14-1 13

3.50: 1, CAMPTOSAUROS (A Docom) 20-1; 2, Bitserack 20-1; 3, Wuding 14-1; 13 ran. 3-1 tav Boyzontoowa (pulled up), 12, 5. (D Atlex, Bellord), Tota: £18-70; 53:0; £0:20, \$450. DF: \$20:20; CSF: £3:705. Thesis: \$5;82:31. Tho: £10:42:30. 4.20: 1. HOWAYMAN (Mr K Anderson)
7-2; 2. Postage Stamp 5-1; 3. Secret Bay
4-5 fay. 11 fan. "/k. 11/L. (K Anderson,
Locientes) Tota: 9400; 5250, 0190, \$100. DF:
5940. CSF: \$1798. True \$250.

2340. GSF: £7736. IPO: £260. 4-50: 1. OVER THE BECK (E Callaghan) 7-4 fav; 2. Glenbower 3-1; 3. Kill Smartin 11-2.9 mm. /s. 2/5. (J. M. Jefferson, Melton). Tota: £240; £150, £180, £240. DF: £120. GSF: £164. Thomat: £82.32. Trio: £2090. NR: The Boozing Brief. Jackpot: Not wort; £19,709.12 carried forward to Sandown today. Placepot: £134790. Quadpot: £12020.

Place 5: £317.77. Place 5: £205.58.

WOLVERHAMPTON 2.10: 1, MiRACLE ISLAND (D Holand) 6-n fay; 2, Western Somita 7-2; 3, AFs Fel-ia 13-2, 1D ran, 5, 3 (D Loder), Tote: £130; £140, £150, £130, DF: £350, CSF: £346, Trio: 2.40: 1. MISTER ASPECTO (D Holland)

2.00:1. MES. IEM ASPECTO (D. PODRIO) 4-9 fax; 2. Jaranto 9-1; 3. NBClom's Star 8-1. 8 mm. 2/s, 10 (M. Johnston). Tota: \$150; \$100, £150; \$230, DF: \$230, CSF: \$528. Titr: \$900. NR: Frankle Henry, Vennan. 3.10:1. WEETMAN'S WEIGH (O Holland) 3.10:1. WEELMAN'S WEIGH (D HOMO) 4-1; 2. Tropin Haro T. 4 tay; 3. Swift 18-1. 9 mm. 174, hd. (R Hollinshead). Toba: £15.00; £3.70, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £23.70. CSP: £49.96. Tricast: £598.22. Tric: £150.00. NR; Fire Dome.

3.40: 1. DAHLEDYA (A McCarthy) 33-1; 2. Pharston Ring 7-2; 3. Albrantes 9-1 7 nan. 100-30 fev Polar Met. nk, 1½. (M Pol-glese). Tota: £30.70; £670, £140. DF: £4520.

4.10: 1. RISKY WHISKY (G Carter) 5-2; 2. Mistozze 7-1; S. Rockowski 9-4 kez 9 ran. nk, 1½, (J Berry). Tota: 52.80; \$110, \$2.00, \$110. DF: \$13.90. CSF: \$18.78. This: \$10.00. 4.40: 1. SMART BOY (Devid O'Neil) 3-1 It fav, 2. Drama King 3-1 |t fav, 3. Am-bidestrous 7-2. 2 ran. 7, 1 (P Cole). Tota: 540: 5160. 5100. 5220. DF: 51810. CSF: 5168. ot: £3270. Quedoot: £1800.

Place 6: £1901 Place 5: £1593.

### Lingfield (AW)

3.15 (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 1f

2.00 Night City 2.30 Perpetual Light 3.05 Striding King 3.35 Pieln Gaz 4.10 Manoin (nb) 4.40 Blue Shadow GOING: Slow

GOING: Slow:
STALLS: 5f - outside; rest - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low over 5f & 6t.

© Equitrack surface; left-hand, sherp undulating course.
© Course is south-east of town on B2028, Lingfield rail station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMiSSION:
Members/Family Enclosure £10 (accompanied under 16s free).
CAR PARK: Cub £3; remainder free.
© LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 51-285 (75%), R Hammon 45-355 (37%), Lord Huntingdon 39-207 (18%), B O'Sulfiven 35-205 (25%),
© LEADING JOCKETS: A Clark 69-545 (125%), 3 Whitworth 51-332 (54%), D Holland 44-206 (24%), J Quiam 33-621 (53%),
© FAVOURITES: 698-207 (831%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Goodbye Gatemen (410).

2.00 BARNABY RUDGE CLA)MING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f 1 - 1-333 MGHT CITY (16) CDJ K Burler 79.7. D Sweeney (3) 5 2 80-222 OUET ARCH (21) (C) W Mur 5 9.7. Mer fin Dwyer J 1 00-005 SASSEDO (USA) (24) P Howing 88 17 ... Il Carlor 2 8 4 FR0088H CITY (1874) CDJ (1874 9 QCH-0 MY HERIO (13) T Mile 47 13 Lisa Hacilet (7) 6

- 6 declared BETTING: 5-4 Might City, 9-4 Culint Arch, 9-2 Sessedo, 5-1 Fair Fincish, 14-1 Gresowicts Fore, 37-1 My Hero

2.30 DAVID COPPERFIELD H'CAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added fillies & mares 1m 2f 

3.05 HARD TIMES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) \$5,000 added 7f 

the production of the company of the production of the company of The state of the s

3.35 BLEAK HOUSE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 61 9 doctored -BETTING: 2-1 Plain Gaz, 5-2 The Printy Farmer, 5-1 Threapley, 0-1 Wile Notice, 10-1 Darby Pryer, 12-1 Superior, 14-1 Village Pub, 20-1 others

4.10 GREAT EXPECTATIONS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 5f 

Logic Pert Lad 7st 1b.

ESTING: 2-1 Mannio, 4-1 Rise 'N Shine, 5-1 La Doyenne, 7-1 Helt Tone,
6-1 Ramely Hope, 9-1 Sound The Trumpel, 10-1 Goodbye Gatamen, 14-1
Miller Raider, 25-1 Gilleranting Hope, 33-1 Logic Pert Lad

4.40 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 7f BETTING: 4-11 Mediments Minage, 100-30 Amber Regard, 9-2 Blue Shed on, 10-1 Take A Tarn, 14-1 High Gain

### Today's fixtures

Football HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Dundalk v Un-versity Cologe Dubin (745). JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Whitchurch v Cowes Sports (730). Cowes Sports (7:30).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Not-tingitam Forest v Stoks (7:0).
AVON INSURANCE COMERNATION First Of-vision: Queen's Park Rangers v Crystal Palace (20): Watland v Norwich (7:30) for Morti-

Rugby Union CLUZ MATCH: Portypool v Neath (70). Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Watford Royals Crystal Palace (20). ice hockey

EXPRESS CUP Semi-finals second leg (7.30): Ayr Scotish Eagles (4) v Notingham Parthers (4): Sheffield Steelers (1) v Brack-nel Bees (3). Other sports

SNOOKER: Scottish Open (Aberdeen).

TODAY'S

### NUMBER 150

The number of Reading fans who were in the 40,579 crowd at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday for Sunderland's 4-1 victory. It was a record attendance for the new stadium and the Nationwide League.



## Lloyd insists that flak for bowlers was deserved

Cricket

Mark Baldwin

reports from Port of Spain

reasons yesterday why he met-Dean Headley last week.

The two fast bowlers were Test defeat to the West Indies and then helped us win the game

here, but Lloyd said that it was with his batting at the end. I have last match we got it. We won the the contribution of two younger all justified - in the light of Tues- never been so specific in critiday's win in the third Test, also at the Queen's Park Oval.

"I did hand out a little bit of DAVID LLOYD spelt out the criticism - and it was levelled against two players in particued out such hitter public criti- lar," he said. "I was looking for cism to Andy Caddick and a response and I think that we got it. One of them came in with five wickets in the first innings stung by the England coach's and the other one, Headley, decision to single them out for bowled his heart out to take four hlame following the second wickets in their second innines

as coach, but oo that occasion I thought I would stir it up a bit

- but for all the right reasons. "I thought it was all measured criticism but what moved me to do it was that, in my eyes, our preparation for the Test had been absolutely spot-on hut we had atill lost the game." Lloyd added. "We needed a better performance in key areas and I'm pleased to say that in this pecially important because of have done it but that we have

Test because we played as a unit players. Headley and Mark cising players before in my time -so now we can shout that from Butcher, and because the team the rooftons too.

> "People under-perform in all walks of life - it's no hig thing and we had to be honest. As a coach you have a responsibili- Ambrose and Courtney Walsh. ty, in the main, to protect your He added: "They didn't bowl team hut I felt we needed to be one bad ball for over after over critical on that occasion."

Lloyd said England's triumph, in what will go down as massive psychological boost." one of the epic Tests, was es-

had been made to fight all the way to the finishing line by the sustained brilliance of the West Indian pace veterans, Curtly

"It's not so much that we

and the fact we have come

through against them will be a

against the two fast bowlers who I consider to be the best.

You have to be strong enough to play every ball on its merit and Mike Atherton got it about right when he said the best way of dealing with them is to forget the scoreboard. They gave us a severe examination at the end of that game and it's a big boost that we were strong enough to come through.

"I'm particularly pleased that Headley and Butcher made

done it on a helpful pitch, such massive contributions because those two will have never been in a game quite like that before." England's next fixture is a three-day match against

Guyana starting on Saturday in Bourda. Bad weather caused the first Test between South Africa and Pakistan in Johannesburg to end as a draw yesterday. The home side, who led by 35 after the first innings, closed on 44 without

bowled on the final day.

£2.14m in the last financial year and are running up fresh loss after only 10.3 overs were losses of £175,000 per month. A statement from the club's directors specifically mentions the former chairman Terry Venables and his recent departure as a factor in Portsmouth's current plight. Venables' successor, Martin Gregory, is hoping to push through a share issue to generate badly needed cash, to the tune of £5.5m - almost enough to pay off the £5.6m cur-

Portsmouth's

books make

grim reading

TROUBLED Portsmouth are

on the brink of financial ruin, fol-

lowing yesterday's revelation of

losses of more than f2m in the

12 months up to May last year.

First Division despite Tues-

day's victory over Stockport, lost

Pompey, still bottom of the

Football

rently owed to creditors. Cash from the sale of Lee Bradbury to Manchester City for £3.5m and Deon Burton to Derby County for £1.5m have not been included in the current accounts. But projected losses: of around £1m for players' signing-on fees are also not included - and accounts reveal the club's wage bill rose by £900,000 in the last financial year.

The directors' statement stated that the dispute with Venables has hampered their recovery. "It is no secret that the dispute with Mr Venables severely affected our financial stability," it read. "Fortunately it has now been settled, and we can plan for the future. We helieve that we will now all be pulling in the same direction, with the well-being of Portsmouth Football Club as our only concern."

Venables left Pompey last month after an 11-month reign as chairman, and accounts confirm he was paid £325,000 for his services to the club.

Plans for a new £75m stadium for Swansea City were unveiled by the Third Division club's parent company, Silver Shield Group, yesterday.

The company said the 25,000 all-seat stadium project would create 750 new jobs and include leisure facilities such as a multiplex cinema. Silver Shield. which bought an 80 per cent stake in Swansea last August, said they intend the new stadium to be along the lines of Sunderland's Stadium of Light and Stoke City's Britannia Stadium.

Silver Shield's chairman. Neil McClure, added that the development would serve the needs of Swansea City and be used for national and regional sports and leisure events. His company is also in talks with Rugby League authorities for a Super League franchise to start

in March 1999. "We are committed to the future success of Swansea and of the football club." McClure said. "This development can become a major leisure facility for · : the city as well as an important

MR CO

source of new employment. "It will be a major alliance of public and private capital for the benefit of the community," McClure added. "We anticipate making a detailed planning application in the next three months, subject to satisfactory negotiations with Swansea Council on the joint venture de-

velopment of this site." The Nottingham Forest manager, Dave Bassett, is prenared to let Mark Crossley go out on loan. The Welsh mternational has played two reserve games since returning to action after a seven-month lay off with back trouble, but has been unable to reclaim his place in goal from Dave Beasant.

9

## Perry gets a kick out of adversity

Chris Hewett on the recalled England rookie out to make himself undroppable

MATT PERRY may be a mere rugby player, and a 21-year-old rookie of a rugby player at that, hut he continues to reveal depths of patience and self-discipline that would make Buddha look like Paul Gascoigne. If he ever feels the need to write a book, he should steer clear of "Matt Perry: Life at the back" and go for one of those American-style pop psychology manuals. "How to make a million from adversity" sounds about right.

Consider these most recent developments in the Bath fullback's fledgling top-flight career. Having emerged from the pre-Christmas SANZA series as Clive Woodward's find of the season, an ice-cold trickle of Berlin. "To have gone through negativity chilled his veins as he all these highs and lows at 21 can watched his club-mate, Mike only make me a better player Catt, miss a hatful of goal- and a stronger person, because kicks during a Tetley's Bitter you quickly understand that the Cup de with Richmond in mid-January. Perry knew well before the final whistle that his place in Bath's Heineken Cup final side was in jeopardy, albeit through no fault of his own.

Sure enough, Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, gently informed him the following Tuesday that Jon Callard had been recalled simply to put the ball between the sticks and that as a result, he match with Brive in Bordeaux from the bench.

It was Perry's 21st hirthday and even though he had read the runes correctly, the confirmation left him in an "It's my party and I'll cry if I want to"

The frustration multiplied when Woodward then decided Catt should wear England's No 15 shirt in Paris a week later, a setback Perry had very definitely not seen coming. He has since played one club game against Gloucester in the centre and heen overlooked for another with Wasps, so when Woodward recalled him for this weekend's Five Nations encounter with Wales at Twickenham, the youngster greeted the news with a delight tempered by first-hand experience of the capriciousness of life in the

sporting fast lane. "I look at it this way," he says, revealing once again a levelheadedness worthy of Isaiah only useful reaction to disappointments like Bordeaux and Paris is to look again at your own game, identify the areas that have left you exposed and then work to put them right.

"To miss out on the Heineken final was hitterly tiswas slightly different in as much thing to warrant being dropped. But those decisions are in the hands of others, 50 you can't get too twisted about it. You have to go the positive route.

from the Bath side because of next time I get dropped, it will problems elsewhere and in a be all my own fault.



Setting new goals: Bath and England's Matt Perry, who is working hard to become 'a genuine goal-kicking full-back'

sense that's true. But if I'd why I'm concentrating so hard skills. JC is the best kicker in the country at the moment and if I can put myself in a position to do a similar joh for Bath - to honestly say 'Yes, I'm a genuine People say I was dropped goal-kicking full-back - then the

To that end, he has put himappointing even though I un- been a goal-kicker of JC's self in the hands of Dave Alred, derstood the reasoning behind stature, the situation wouldn't a specialist coach renowned the selection. The England thing have arisen, would it? That's throughout the rugby world as the top man in his field. "We're would be watching the climactic as I didn't think I'd done any on developing my own kicking together for three sessions every week and I can feel it coming on," says Perry. "I've identified the start of next season as the point at which I'll ask for goalkicking duties. You can't rush these things because confidence is a big, big factor in this area. But by the middle of August, I'll

be looking to pop a few over at first-team level."

Alred, who made recordhreaking kickers of Jon Webh and Roh Andrew before guiding Neil Jenkins to his Lions heroics last summer, does not doubt for a moment his new charge's potential as a worldclass marksman. "Matt will get there, definitely. Why? Because he's a worker. He puts the time in he sweats at it, he listens and

est with you. I can't think of an- November. Maybe it's because other player of his age with such completely committed and to- Test all over again.

tally honest with himself." incapable of relishing the delicious pangs of anticipation durhe learns. To be perfectly hon- first cap against Australia last how right they were."

Photograph: Allsport

of the disappointments I've sufa professional outlook. He's fered recently, but it's like a first "When you look at it, I Not that Perry is a cold fish, haven't played much hig rugby over the last few weeks. I can't

tell you how hungry I am for this ing the huild-up to a hig one. Experienced internationinternational occasion. "This als told me that once I'd played Wales game is giving me one at the top level, I'd want more hell of a buzz," he says, "In fact, and more of it. The last three I'd put it right up there with my or four weeks have shown me

wing and the substitutes' bench.

On the domestic front, Eng-

### Evans gives way to Walker at Twickenham but Dallaglio passed fit

By Chris Howett

THE SPIRIT may be willing, but Ieuan Evans' battered body is beginning to protest in the strongest possible terms. Eight months after being invalided out of the Lions tour of South Africa with a serious groin condition, the most celebrated Welsh wing since Gerald Davies has given best to injury once again and withdrawn from this weekend's Five Nations match

Evans has problems with a terday on medical advice. "If he played on Saturday he would risk a muscle tear that might mean a five-week lay-off," Kevin Bowring, the Welsh er, the former Olympic sprint hurdler from Cardiff, who many

with England at Twickenham. been picked in the first place. Now only month short of his

calf muscle and withdrew yes- 34th hirthday, Evans does not have too many international occasions left to him. A close searekindled his enthusiasm for top-level rugby and he realised coach, said. Gareth Thomas a cherished ambition last month switches from left to right wing when he helped his new club to to create room for Nigel Walk- the Heineken Cup title in Bordeaux, but his increasingly frequent presence on the injury list Welshmen helieve should have suggests he will struggle to

make it to next year's World

As expected, Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, confirmed vesterday that had reson move from Llanelli to Bath covered from a rib injury and would start the match with Wales. Interestingly enough, a second rib-cage was also declared fully functional, that of Thomas Lievremont, the French No 8.

Either Jason Leonard was entirely innocent of stamping on

Lievremont's rib-cage during the France-England match in Paris, or he did not stamp nearly as hard as les Tricolores maintained in the aftermath of battle. The highly capable 24year-old forward from Perpignan will take the field against the Scots at Murrayfield this

What is more, his brother. Marc, will accompany him in the French back row. The heavy-

worse for wear.

weckend, apparently none the

tackling Stade Francais flanker their respective places on the left replaced the more experienced Philippe Benetton during the early stages of the England match and brought such oomph to the loose exchanges that the selectors have retained his services. "Marc was our best defensive player against the English and we see him playing a key role again on Saturday," said Jo Maso, the team man-

Lievremont's promotion is the only change to the side that beat England far more comfortably than the 24-17 scoreline suggested. Christophe Dominici, a try-scorer in Paris, and Thierry Cleda, the replacement lock from Pau, have recovered from minor injuries and take

land's leading Premiership clubs have put forward proposals for a 14-team compension next season - a move that would see relegation scrapped for the second time in three seasons. Under the plan, due to be considered by the Second Division clubs today, the Premiership Two champions and runners-up would win automatic promotion, with the third and fourth clubs taking on the bottom two top-flight finishers in end-of-season play-offs. STICTS III CRIC-OF-SCRUII PIZIY-OUS.
FRANCE XV (v Scotland, Saturday): J
Sedourny; P Bernet-Selles, C Lamation,
S Girs, C Dominict: T Castalgnede, P Carbonneau; F Tourneler, R Ibanez (cast), C
Califeno, F Pelous, O Brouzet; T Lievremont, O Megne, M Lievremont, Replacement: X Garbejosa, O Aucagne, F Galtie,
P Benetton, T Cleda, C Soulette, M del
Mase.

### Gullit sunk by clock-watchers stuck in another time

would be bad for his image, to type, a self-made man who Ruud Gullit has not attempt- expects his employees to he ed to justify his manipulation available at short notice. of conventional wisdom. Coach, not manager, reprecarried it a stage further.

hility, Gullit spent a great deal of time on profitable extra- Championship. curricular activities. Gullit was

With this in mind the sus-Bates, found Gullit's excessive team no longer performed to

PRESUMABLY because it his satisfaction, Bates reverted

Shortly after Gullit was shown the door, I went over the sents a sea change in English situation with Jack Charlton. football, but the Dutchman who managed Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and New-Encouraged by Chelsea to castle before achieving great believe that the team and its success with the Republic of method was his sole responsi- Ireland, qualifying them for two World Cups and a European

Charlton'a independence is so seldom seen at Stamford legendary. Stipulations of Bridge outside regular working agreement with Middlesbrough hours that people began to were that he would not be rewonder if he knew exactly how quired to attend board meetings on a regular basis or be denied One of the questions raised time for recreation. Although by the reverberation of Gullit's Charlton put more of himself sensational departure is are into the job, including assistance English clubs entirely comfort- with development, he has some sponsibility for all matters, inable with divisions in authority sympathy with Gullit's apparcommonplace elsewhere in Eu- ent determination to maintain

a life outside football. "I think there is prohably picion held here is that Chel- more more to it than Ruud's sea's robust chairman, Ken asking price," Charlton said. "My guess is that Chelsea exwage demands convenient. It is pected more of Ruud's time were rarely seen at the traineasy to imagine that, when the than he was prepared to give." ing ground - and then only to training and matches. He did hut his ego may have suggest-If Gullit's attitude was ex- cast a beady eye over pro- not scout players and was sel- ed something similar.

treme, an unavoidable conclusion is that clubs are still stuck with the notion of manager as factotum.

At the end of a long working day, Tottenham's most successful manager, Bill Nicholson, did not leave without first checking that all the lights partly to make his men nervous, ward, Raich Carter, thought were out. Astonishing as it now seems, Nicholson felt recluding the electricity bill.

Doubtless, this never occurs Christian Gross, or David Pleat, who was recently appointed director of football. Time was when managers

to Tottenham's present coach

and uncomplicated. "It's easi- ponents. er to play against 10 men than 11" is one of the instructions I remember. The coach as deity has he- erties. However, his sacking

come a trusted metaphor, raises the possibility that Engguaranteed to get a cackling re- lish clubs will never warm to sponse at sporting functions. delegation. Speakers used to tell the story of Mrs Clough complaining one night: "God, your feet are idea and it would take a lot of cold." Clough replied: "You hassle out of my life," one said may call me Brian, dear."

lit will soon replace Clough in this week. 'More European that joke, but aloofness from bollocks,' that's what he'd say their players does not in itself to me." justify comparison. Clough's frequent absences were made a great England inside-forpartly to remind them that about planning when installed they were oothing without him. in management. Now there

different direction, one that equal of Gullit's, Carter sat bethe majority of Premier neath an oil painting of himself League clubs still find difficult dismissive of the thought that to comprehend. He saw him- his team would benefit from inself solely as supervisor, se- formation. "What's the point of lector and strategist. Probably, speaking to them," he once to Bates' eventual irritation, he said, "They can't play." did not hang around after

ceedings. Team talks were brief dom seen watching future op-

A personal point of view, one nobody is required to share, is that Gullit took lib-Coaches and managers

themselves doubt it. "I like the this week. "But try telling A pretty safe bet is that Gul- that to my chairman," one said

This was, more or less, how Gullit was coming from a was an ego for you, every bit the

Gullit never went that far.

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لمكذا من ألاصل



Seeking Royle approval: Joe Royle, the new Manchester City manager, takes training yesterday morning

## Cursed by Manchester madness

"NOTHING illustrates the chaot- is such a popular figure hut ic nature of Manchester City better than the hiring and firing of Frank Clark. On his first day, 14 months ago, he had to wait in the car park for half an hour while the sacked caretaker Phil Neal cleared his desk.

chairman, while en route to watch Sunderland. Lee wanted to see him so Clark, who had reached Leeds, offered to turn. round. No, it can wait, he was woke up, turned oo the radio. and found he had been sacked.

worst placing in their 111-year history, it should not have been a surprise but there was much \_sympathy and a significant numher of people - both City fans and outsiders - suggesting he should have been given more time.

Part of this is hecause Clark to cover it. City, as a result, get

part is recognition that at City he held the game's poisoned chalice. City are a hig club. Everyone says so, so it must be true, but are they?

Their booours haul (two titles, four FA Cups, two League On Tuesday evening he took Cups and a European Cup-Wina call from Francis Lee, the City ners' Cup) is not that impressive. It is 22 years since they won anything and they are steeped in debt. The only areas in which they now resemble a hig club is in their support – which remains one. Manchester was once a major newspaper centre and still possesses an unusually high number of football reporters. So that whenever a City story breaks - and break they do there is no shortage of writers

Frank Clark is the latest manager to be brought down by Manchester City's downward spiral. Glenn Moore reports

more attention than a oumber of their Premiership superiors.

City's expectations are inflated from terrace to boardroom and the reality is made to appear all the more awful by Manchester United's overwhelming success. Clark has had money, quite a bit given City's debt, though not told. Yesterday morning Clark solid at around 30,000, a re- as much as be had anticipated, markable figure - and their pub- and he has been allowed to lic profile. To an extent this is bold on to Georgi Kinkladge, but bottom in the First Division, the paper industry than the football come the effects of City's pretensions to grandeur.

Given that Lee, Dennis Tueart, who is now an influential director, and several other club that it was any better under the have players with Premiership son-ticket holder, Paul Butler. ston?

of the higgest wage hills in the land. Players had to go hut only the better ones were wanted -Gary Flitcroft (bizarrely sold in previous chairman, Peter Swales. advance of relegation), Niall He worked through 13 man-Quinn, Tony Coton, Steve Lomas agers in 22 years. When Lee arand Keith Orrie. Others, such as rived, four years ago this month, Nigel Clough, remain, in a highhe pledged that those days ty-paid reserve team. Good dubs do not want them, bad clubs can-

wages. When they were relegat-

oot afford them. City do have some good players, and among the 37 Clark used ement of scapegoating, and it is were 11 internationals. This seanot just the fans, who had be- son City beat an in-form Swinlatedly turned on Clark who are don 6-0 as well as defeating middle of a power struggle with dlesbrough. Yet they also lost to various directors and prominent Blackpool in the Coca-Cola Cup shareholders fighting for power. and to their once patronised lo-Royle was a success at Old- cal rivals: Stockport County, selves whether the good times ham, but a failure at Everton, a Crewe Alexandra and (at home employees, were players in the club with similar problems to on Saturday) Bury. It is typical club's golden decade from 1967- City. Everton at least had some of the City saga that Bury's goal 77, this is hardly surprising. Not Premiership players; City just was scored by a former City sea- Burnley, Blackpool and Pre-

However, in the dark moments on the Kippax City fans are being forced to ask themwill ever return? Or will they become another faded Lancastrian team, living on memories, like

whose ground England play

Colombia, will give the run-

down on his city, and there will

also be a one-off session on

64,000-franc question. Just

how do you order hacon and

grey peas? The answer turns

out to be: "Jambon frit et petits

pois gris, s'il vous plait".

However, asking for it might he

to risk undermining that pop-

ular French drink, the entente

Which hrings us back to the

French cuisine.

ed 21 months ago they had one to go to Maine Road, attending more in hope than expectation, with only the prospect of some marvellous sleight of foot by the inconsistent Kinkladze to brighten the ordeal. While United are on the nation's screens entertaining a European powerhouse at the Theatre of Dreams, City fans head for the chamber of horrors, their communal sense of gloom encapsulated in the name of one several pressure groups: Free The Manchester 30,000. It is almost ghoulish, this desire to be able to say, when the good times return, "I was there

It has become an act of faith

## Smith stands by decision on Gascoigne

By Simon Buckland

THE RANGERS manager, Walter Smith, has played down suggestions he exchanged words with an irate supporter during Tuesday night's 3-0 win over Motherwell that put his side into the Scottish Cup quarter-finals.

Some fans were angry at Barry Ferguson being taken off after 79 minutes, and the fact that Stuart McCall rather than Paul Gascoigne was chosen as the man to replace him.

When asked whether he debated that decision with any fans after reports of at least one being ejected, Smith said: "Who me? Do a thing like that?" His justification for teaving

out the England midfielder Gascoigne was no less succinct. saying: "I picked what I felt was the best team on the night." He was more expressive when discussing his side's dis-

play which, while perhaps short on style, was an example of a professional joh well done. He said: "It was a pleasing performance from us tonight as we played very well from start

to finish and it was the hest we have done for a few weeks. Andy Watsoo finally joined Hibernian as assistant manager yesterday, a week after being offered the job. He linked up

again with his former Motherwell manager, Alex McLeish, at Easter Road and immediately got down to work.

Watson's final role as assistant manager at Fir Park was to take charge of the squad that lost 3-0 to Rangers in the Tennents Scottish Cup last night. Only a few bours later he made the short drive from his Edinburgh in from a shares issue will be

a spell as a player. Watson cannot get away from Rangers, though, because the Scottish champions are Hibernian's opposition on Saturday.

McLeish was brought in to replace Jim Duffy last week with Hibernian rooted to the foot of the Premier Division.

The former Scotland international is delighted to have Watson on board. "Andy's strengths are his honesty, integrity and enthusiasm. I am delighted be is joining me. We work well together, and his presence is a vital one at training sessions and on match days," McLeish said.

Watson said: "I was first approached by Alex last Wednesday when he took the job and I said I would like to go along and be his No 2. But departing then would have left Motherwell in a difficult situation, so I agreed to stay and lead the team against Rangers and it was a pleasure to do so."

Financially stricken Partick Thistle could yet be saved by their own supporters after shareholders gave the go-ahead for a new share issue.

Brown McMaster, the club chairman, said: "The fans can now own the club. I have received six cheques worth £1,000 each from supporters wanting to buy into the club. It's been a quite remarkable turnaround and I am excited by the prospect."

Partick face a crucial creditors' meeting within the next few weeks, hut two-thirds of them have already accepted 40p in the pound. McMaster added: "If all the creditors agree, this will mean that the money we bring home to the club where he had working capital."

### Chile cost England place in rankings

fifth in the latest Fifa world managed by the former England rankings after last week's defeat coach Terry Venables, are still by Chile, but there is more had in 35th, the position they occunews for Northern Ireland and pied at the end of last year.

that the turn of the year but ton 10. their first loss since June 1997 has seen them swap places with Mexico in the ratings compiled by football's world governing

Scotland remain io 37th place and the Republic of Ireland have just managed to stay in the top 50, dropping three positions from 47th.

However, Lawrie McMenemy's reign as Northern Ireland manager has begun on an ominous note, with his side dropning to 99th from 93rd to lie a mixed squad of Nigerian vethelow Tanzania and Syria, among others.

And for Wales, the news is even worse - Bobby Gould's Sunday. Rashidi Yekini, the side have slumped to 107th from 102nd and are now below the likes of Vietnam and .Singapore, just nine places above the Faroe Islands.

Elsewhere, the top three is unchanged, with the Czech Republic - who have failed to qualify for France 98 - third. Germany second and the world champions, Brazil, still top of the rankings.

Italy bave dipped to 14th

ENGLAND have slipped to from ninth, while Australia, Japan, in ninth, are the first Glenn Hoddle's team were Asian country to appear io the

Chile rise to seventb from 16th place after their victory at Wembley, while the United States bave leapt 14 places to 12th following last week's surprise defeat of Brazil.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS (previous po-FIFA WORLD RANKINGS (previous po-sition): 1 Brazil (1) 7258 portes; 2 Germany (2) 6501; 3 Czrcin Republic (3) 6454, 4 Mino-co (5) 6167; 5 England (4) 6089; 6 France (5) 6945; 7 Chile (6) 9944; 6 Yugosáhna (20) 5897; 9 Japun (14) 5890; 10 Norway (13) 5887; Selected; 14 Italy (9) 5840; 35 Aus-trala (85) 5222; 37 Socitand (37) 5223; 50 Republic of Ireland (47) 4665; 99 Northern Ireland (93) 3121; 107 Wales (122) 2795.

 Bora Milutinovic has picked erans and second-string players to play fellow World Cup qualifiers Jamaica in Kingston on veteran striker, is one of five "old guards" selected.

"Old guards" Sciented.
Nigeria Squab (v Jemeica, Kingston, Sundey): Goelkeepers Barune (FC Son). Akubukka (Jesper United), Detenders: Eguaroes: (CSKA Moscow). Okafor (Kanes City). Shalopore (Reggana). Alide (Likes Berger). Obletono (Go Anead Eagles), Irobe (San Jose Clash). Peachas (Gonclerbirg). Babledoe (L6 Korsa Cneetah); Midfielders: Musa (FC Seabrucken). Okooghe (Sporta Politodam). Babledoe (Herenveon). Offgree (Kaiserslautem). Oblora (Anderleckii); Strikers: Okolosi (Nizidori Mesmhern). Oraruszurulko (Hebrerwein). Stasie (Parth Glory). Mohammed (Kano Palars), Streibo (Sharis). Avas (Jasper United). Yeldni (FC Zurich).

### First course on French menus for those who eat and sleep football French, with infuriating lack of skills, the course is designed to

HELP is at hand for any Midlands football supporter bound for France 98 who may have thought croque monsieur was an miured player, bete noire a brassy harmaid or crime passionel something to be savoured between the main course and coffee.

Language schools used to guarantee French without lears. Bilston Community College, which yesterday launched a pre-World Cup course entitled Ici mon fils, sur ma tête (or as Steve Ball would put it: On me 'ed son") in conjunction with Wolverhampton Wan-Black Country accent.

Starting next month, the college is to hold "a fans' survival course" at Molineux. The seven 90-minute classes are aimed at both the fortunate few with tickets and those who may be watching the finals in cafes or

bars while holidaying in France. Some of the first to enrol attended a mock lesson at Wolves to publicise the project. For the benefit of Central TV's cameras they asked the kind of questions next summer. "If you get fed up eating frogs' tegs," said one middle-aged gentleman, "how derers, promises French with a can you ask for bacon and grey

France 98 will lure a number of innocents abroad but help is at hand, writes Phil Shaw

thought of this local delicacy, priority: "How do I order 20 pints of lager?" Another man mischievously sought the translation for "Have you got any roast lamh?" while the bead of which they envisaged arising a family kitted out in Derby County colours came straight to you hlind, ref?""

While minds boggled and hind the idea, Mike Arthur, destomachs rumhled at the scribes as "fun learning". The nearest anyone will come to a woman highlighted her the old-fashioned chanting of terms "the get-out-of-that verbs will be to learn the Euro 96 anthem line by line, although "Trois lions sur une chemise" may have trouble

were over. Joe Royle, Clark's

successor, is his fifth manager

The latest dismissal has an el-

(oot including Neal).

catching on. should be the sessions on how that it might be inadvisable to the point "How do I shout: 'Are to work out the nuances of a rely on the theory that "every-The classes will put the for directions and advice on days". emphasis on what the tutor be- routes (remembering that the

Robertson and N Robertson bt Nyqvet and J Auto 18-13 18-25: Denmark 5 Norway 0; Russia 3 Scotland 2; Nethertsonth 4 toeland 1; Uloraine 3 Portugal 2; Sweden 5 USA 0; Uloraine 4 Poland 1 Auton qualifying tounsament (Memille, Phil); China 5 Canada 0; South Korea 3 Taiwan 2.

LIBER CUP WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP Auton qualifying tounsament (Manille, Phil); China 5 New Zealand 0; Japan 5 Maleysia 0; South Korea 5 Singapore 0; Taiwan 5 Canada 11

NBA: Miami TIO Minnesota 84; Philadelphia

Basketball

Boxing

consideration, drive on the enhance the appreciation of wrong side of the road); and cultural differences. A reprehow to change currency or sentative of Lens, the club on find a room for six. There will also be a class on

how to cope with what Arthur scenario", such as your car hreaking down in a remote village, or heing thrown in jail. When dealing with doctors, dentists, policemen and pa-Of more practical use ternity lawyers, he suggests restaurant menu; how to ask one speaks English these

As well as developing oral cordiale.

Extres (b4) 4 Total (for 0, 10.3 overs) 4 Bowling: Wears Yourie 53-1-18-0; Shoeb Akhter 5-0-22-0; Match drawn. Unopiret: C J Matchiey and P Wiley. Second Test: Durben, 26 Feb-2 Mer. Third Test: Port Eizzbeth, 6-10 Mer.

Darrny Cutto, the Futham defender, is set to join Brentford in a £50,000 deal.

Preston North End have signed the striker Hebb Sissoko, 26, for a non-inal fee from the French Second Di-vision club, Louhens-Cuseaux,

The Republic of Ireland, Scottand and Northern Ireland have agreed to stage a trangular Under-21 tournament over the next three years. The first tournament will take place in the Republic in May, with Dublin the tikely venue for the games.

The Denmark defender Stian Jensen is to return to Brondby from Cannes on a contract which will run until June

2000.
ALTO WINDSCREENS SHELD Area finale draw: Northern section: Graneby v Burnley, Southern section: Weisal v Bourn-mouth. (First legs week commencing 8 March; second legs week commencing 16 March; second legs week commencing 16

Football

Ice hackey Colin Campbell, who took the New York Rangers to the National Hockey Leegue's Eastern Conference finals last season, was yesterday dismissed as

Motor racing

Motor racing formula Ones ruing body, the FIA, has confirmed that this year's Belgian Grand Prix will go ahead as schedulad on 30 August at the Spa-Francordamps circuit. The race had appeared doomed when a Belgian appeal court upheld a law that will introduce a strict ban on all forms of tobacco advertising and sponsorship from next year. Now cars will appearantly be tree to carry tobacco logos at this year's race until the introduction of the new law.

ZETTERS TRAIN 21 pts 15515. Premier 10: 251. ZETTERS Trable Chemon: 25/ts 2224105; 22/ts 95495; 21 pts 6495; 20/ts 650. Four www.sc 22. Sight homes: 271. Four Grane: CTO. All draws trable chance: 24/pts 255825; 25/ts 21750. Fair Five 15680. BRITTEN'S Trable chance: 22pts E12; 21pts 52:0; 20pts 50p. Four chance: 08:20. Five aways: \$4.25. Eight horses: 53.85.

Belgian was taken to hospital in Natiobland is expected to be released today. The three-day Safari Rally starts in Nairobl on 28 February.

Sailing

Saturng
WhiteREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
(fifth leg, 8,670 nailes, Auckland, NZ, to
São Sebastiaco, Brj: 1 EF Larquage (Swe)
P Cayerd 13:0 miles to finish; 2 knowaton
kseemer (Nor) K Frostad 517 miles behind
leader; 3 Swedieh Match (Swe) G Krantz
+327; 4 Mart Cup (Norato) G Dahon +530;
5 Toriba (US) P Standbridge +532; 6 Burnel
Sunargy (Noth) R Heiner +739; 7 Chassie
Racing (US) O Smith +752; 6 Six Cut (GB)
L Smith +4099; 9 EF Education (Swe) C Guillov + 1730.

Snonker

REGAL SCOTTISH OPEN (Aberdeen)
Third round: P Hunter (Eng) bt J Parrott
(Eng) 5-0; C Scanton (Eng) bt P Lines (Eng)
5-0; J White (Eng) bt D Henry (Sco) 5-4.

Squash
Mike Corby, who captained England
and Great Britain at squash and
hockey between 1964 and 1972, is to
put his Mike Corby Group behind the
1998 British Open Championshipe,
working in association with Hi-Tec
Sports. Following early rounds from
25 to 30 March at Lambs Club, the
flagship squash and fitness centre of
the group in London, the last 18
rounds will be staged at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingteam from 1
to 5 April.

Table tennis

State of England's leading players will compete in a two-day qualitying tournament at St Austell, Comwall, starting today, for five places in the England squad for the European Championships at Eindhoven, the Netherlands, starting on 23 April. England's top four - Matthew Syed,

Cari Prean, Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt - have already secured their

Tennis Tennis

ST. ALDE'S ATP TOUR (Memorital) Singles, first round: W Black (Zm) bt E Alserez (Sp) 57 6-37-5; G Stafford (SA) bt A Merth (Sp) 6-3 6-0; T Nydair (Swe) bt N Lapenti (Er) 6-3 7-6; J Burlio (Sp) bt J Stark (US) 6-7 6-3; 6-2; Il Nestor (Car) bt M Craca (Ger) 6-4 6-6 6-3; P Heanthus (Neth) bt L Jensen (US) 6-7 6-4 8-4 Second round: M Rock (Chie) bt 2 Campbet (US) 8-2 6-4; G Kuerten (Br) bt G Weiner (US) 7-6 6-3; M Gambdi (US) bt B Black (Zm) 5-7 7-5 7-6; V Spades (US) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 7-6 6-4.

EUROPEAN COMMINITY ATP TOURNAMENT (Antwerp) Singles, first round: M Norman (Swe) bt 7 Herman (SP) 7-5 3-6 6-3; P Kords (Cz Rep) bt V/Ferrera (SA) 6-3 6-2.

ATP CHALLENGER (Lübeck, Ger) Second round (selected): L Burgamuler (Ger) bt A Richardson (GB) 6-2 6-1 Richardson (GB) 6-2 6-1.

L'A MEN'S TOUPNAMENT (Eastbourne) Singles, first round: F Loven (Swe) by D Sapstond (GB) 7-6 6-3; J Cuzz (Fr) bt G Darington (GB) 6-1 6-7-6; R Marcheson (GB) bt H Koli (Nor) 4-6 6-3 7-6; K Flygt (Swe) bt M Nawstrn (R) 6-7 6-2 4-3 ret; M Les (GB) bt D Draper (GB) 6-4 6-4; A Parmar (GB) bt D Draper (GB) 7-5 1-6 6-3; M Verderk (Nesh) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-2 7-6; F Veglio (Swil) bt J Delgado (GB) 6-4 6-1.

WA TOURNAMENT THEORY TOURNAMENT

WTA TOURNAMENT (Harmover, Ger)
Singles, first round: A Huber (Ser) bt E
Lithovisene (Flus) 6-7 6-2 6-4: S Graf (Ger)
bt A Gless (Ger) 6-4 6-2: N Buzzet (Fr) bt
M Gzyborsta (Fo) 6-2 6-1: S Appelmens
(Bel) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 7-5 6-2

(Bel) it M Maleeva (Bul) 7-5 6-3.

LTA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Red-bridge) Singles, second round: L. Latoner (Warwickshare) bt K Hrdirchova (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-3; L. Woodroffe (Surrey) bt H Rosen (Sr) 6-4 6-2; J Ward (Middleroed) bt L. Art (Devon) 6-2 6-2; S Nacuk (Mup) bt E fatantowe (Uri) 5-2 7-6; J Pulin (Susseed) bt K De Welle (Neth) 4-6 6-1 6-1; K Cross (Devon) bt E Salvador (Sp) 1-6 6-2 6-1; T K rozm (Showen) bt P Warnisch (Aur) 6-3 7-8, N Feber (Bel) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-3 6-3.

### Sporting Digest

### Football results

Yesterday AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Milwell 4 Swindon Town 1; Wim-piedon 0 Partsmouth 1 (at Plough Lane). Tuesday's late results

MATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Bury 0 Stoke 0; Charlton 1 Queen's Park Rangers 1; Crewe 0 Birmingham 2; Nothingham Forest 3 Huddensfield 0: Oxford Und 2 West Bromwich 1; Port Vale 0 Swindon 1; Portsmouth 1 Stockport 0; Sunderland 4 Pleasing 1. Third Division: Caroliff 4 Marsfield: 1. Denand 4-reading 1 // All 10 / All 10 /

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Staty-GIII VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stary-bridge 2 Gateshead 2. Spaiding Challenge Cop send-finals first leg: Hayes 0 Woking 2. Morecambe 3 Northerch 0. TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP Fourth-round reptays: Dundee 3 Rosa County 0; Rangers 3 Motherwell 0 (Rangers at home to Dun-dee).

dee).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division:
Hamilton 1 Ayr 1 Second Division: Clyde 0
Lengdon 3; Sterhouserur 3 Sechin 1 Third
Division: East String 1 Durnbarton 0.
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND
Premier Division: Shomrock Rovers 0
Drocheck 1

Pressier Division: Shamook Pones of Orogheda O. HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP Finet first leg: Sigo 1 Shebourne O. SMERNOFF BYSH LEAGUE First Division: Limeword 1 Newry 3. CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD Finet: Limeword 1 Newry 3. CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD Finet: Limeword 1 Newro 3. CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD Finet: Limit 1 Chessiers (Jeans Imme golden goe). UNISOND LEAGUE Premier Olivision: UNISOND LEAGUE Premier Olivision: Leigh Rhill 3 Colveyn Bay 0; Radciffe Bor-cutto Byth Spartans 2 Marrie O; Chorley rotund: Blyth Spartans 2 Marrie O; Chorley O Winstool II Finet Division Cup third round: Seiper 1 Astron Utol 2; Stocksbridge 2 Trail-ford 3.

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Hey RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Hey-bridge 2 Gravesend 2; Weitton & Hersham 2 Purified: 4. First Division: Bifericay 0 Maxi-enhaed 2; Wokingham 0 Chertsey 2. Sec-ond Division: Benesed 1 Northwood 1; Canwey Island Metropolitan Police 1; Edham 2 Martow 0; Horsham S Tibury 2; Westistone 2 Windsor & Eton II Third Di-vision: Dorking 3 Fueley 2. Full Members Cup third round: Boreham Wood 2 Uxbridge 1, Fourth round: Carshalton 1 Leatherhead 2; Hendra 3 Departem & Rod-bridge 1; Staines 1 Besingstole 4. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bath City 1 Halesowen Town 3; Gouceater 2 Asthord 3. Southern Division: Beshley 2 Weston-super-Mare 1 League Cup fourth-round replay: Reston 4 Moor Green II JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier I

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Division: Newmarket 1 Woodham Q Division: Newmarks 1 Wrodfem U SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Caine 1 Melichem 4; Chipperham 1 Brisington 0; Paulton 0 Taunton 1 WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Herne Bay 3 Swardey Furness 0; Hythe 1 Cray Wanderers 2; Ramsgale 1 Sneppay 3; Thamesmeud 3 Faversham 1.

Pytrie 1 of the property of th round reptay: Leads 2 into actions from AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP (Burldon Feat) Group D: Zambie 3 Mozembique 1; Morocco and Egypt quality for regent Anals).

GERMAN CUP Sentence of the Court of the Cour

American football

Lionel Taylor, the England Monarchs head coach, lest night selected the former University of California running back Tyrona Edwards with his first overall pick in the NFL Europe draft. overal pck in the NT-Europe discrete Monarchs selected 28 players over-all and now head to their training camp in Atlanta, which begins on 1 March, before starting this season's campelign with a home game against Frankfurt Galaxy at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre on Sunday, 5 April.

Centre on Sunday, 5 April.
The New York Glants have signed Kent
Grahem as a support querterback four
years after he lost the starting job to
bave Brown, who is expected to be
released shortly. Graham, who played
for the Glants before working the last
two seasons for the Arizona Cardinals,
will understudy Denny Kanel, who took
the starting job from Brown.
Neontistions to move home gesties of Negotiations to move home games of the Tennessee Oliers from Memoris to Neshvitle this year have been giv-en the official go-ahead.

**Athletics** 

Athletics
The British Olympic Association yesterday announced the appointment of
Stephen Martin MBE as director of afficies services. Martin, a member of the
British ments hockey team who won
gold at the Seoul Olympic Games in
1988, has managed the sporting excellence programmes for the Northam treland Sports Council for the last
five years. Badminton

ESACITIZATION
THOMAS CUP MEN'S WORLD TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIP European qualitying
tournament (Sanderford, Nor): Germany
4 Switzerfand 1; England 4 Fridand 1 (D Hall
NP, Lantil 5-5 78-9 75-5; C Haughton bt I
Nycykst 78-9 18-25; S Archer and C Hunt
bt V Kinnunen and A Vittido 15-10 15-6; J

Boxing
Just four days after winning the European cruiserweight championship. Terry Dunstan has been told he must defend it against Johnny Nelson, the former champion who had been stripped of the title, by 14 May.

John Hyland, promoter of the all-Messeyside World Boxing Union Softwetterweight title fight between Shea Neary and Andy Holligan on 12 March, has been forced to increase seating capacity. The marquee in Stanley Park, Liverpool will now hold more than the 5,500 that Hyland hed originally catered for.

(Johannesburg, final day reduced be-cause of bad light and rain) Pakasan won toes SOUTH AFRICA - Piret herings 364 (M V Boucher 78, P L Symcox 108). PAKISTAN - Piret herings 329 (Azher Mah-SOUTH AFRICA - Second Innings

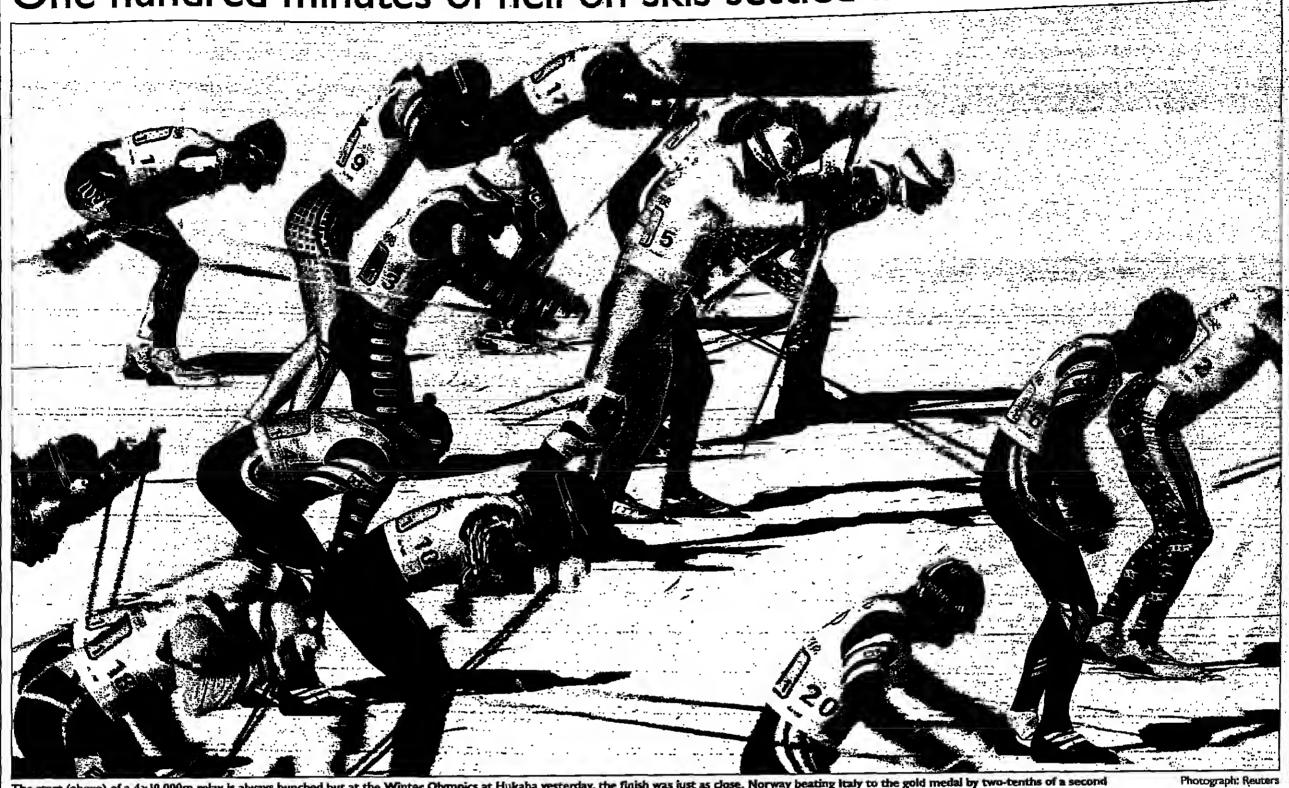
Marchi, Marchi V BUTTON SCOTTISH LEAGUE Flature
thatiges: Postponed: The 24 Febr Artrosh
v East Stirling, Wed 25 Febr Rosa County
v Queen's Park GM VAIDHALL CONFERENCE Poture changes: Postponed: Set 7 Mert Kidder-minster v Hechestord (playing Mon 9 Mert); Dover v Getesheed.

Ponis dividends TOTIS GIVENESTOS

LITTLEWOODS Trable Chance: 23pts 2345,83800; 22pts 278430; 21pts 25085; 20pts 20pts

Rallying

Ari Vatanen, the former world cham-picm, has been drafted into the Ford team for the Safari Raily following the Injuries sustained by the regular dri-ver Bruno Thiry, who tractured five ribe on Monday when the car he was trav-elling in, driven by his team-mate Juha Kankkunen, hit a large pot-hole. The



## Royle ready for Maine Road challenge

Football

By Paul Walker

JOE ROYLE took on one of football's most thankless jobs yesterday, as Manchester City's fifth manager in two years following the sacking of Frank

Clark. "The place is awesome, and people keep telling me that one day someone will get it right," Royle said. "I want that to be me. Everyone says the potential is fantastic - if you do get it right here, you have lift-off. You get

28,000 plus at every game. People turning up to see a team that has been struggling for four or five years."

Royle, a stalwart centre-forward for City in the 1970s, said be is looking forward to helping the club avoid relegation to the Second Division.

Royle said: "I am used to this. When I went to Everton they had just eight points and they ended up with 50. I am used to coming in as a firefighter to put things right. Let's face it, City now have a 15-game season to save themselves from the

drop and I intend to make sure that is achieved. Everything else can wait until that has been achieved."

Royle, who turned the joh down when he was at Oldham in 1990, played in the same City side as the current reserve team coach, Asa Hartford, while another former team-mate, the new City director, Dennis Tueart, was instrumental in his appointment. Royle, who will sign a three-year contract, will work closely with Tueart.

that Royle looked for inspira-

tion yesterday, saying: "It musin't be forgotten that when myself, Asa and Dennis played in this team it was the top club in the city."

"Now, the place is full of internationals but we find ourselves looking up the table at supposedly smaller teams like Crewe and Bury. I haven't asked the chairman about money yet, or whether there are millions to spend. I doubt there is any money.

"That is not the issue at the It was to the Seventies side moment. This is a massive club and it should not be where it is.

Winter Olympics

THE DUTCH are getting all worked up about the Winter

Olympics. First, the nation's

florists are fulminating about the

floral displays at the medal cer-

emonies in Nagano, suspecting

an Oriental plot to do down their

industry. Then yesterday, the

chairman of the Dutch Olympic

Committee resigned, a week after reportedly calling Crown

Prince Willem-Alexander a "Judas" and "saboteur" for join-

ing the International Olympic

Dutch speed skaters, who

dominated the awards podium

again on Tuesday with an un-

precedented medals sweep in

Committee.

By Kieran Daly

"I will know more in seven days when we have played three son as underachievers. "I bave hard games. I will assess the situation, look at the players, and scason," he said. "My feelings then go to the chairman with my ideas." Royle will also try to bring in his former No 2 at Everton and Oldham, Willie when they have not been so Donachie, as coach, bringing back to City another member of the 70s City side. "My first joh

is to get the chairman to get in touch with Mike McDonald at Sheffield United to try to get Willie Donachie released to join me," Royle said.

**Dutch brickbats for** 

Nagano bouquets

have got a lot of admiration and Royle described the players affection for Frank Clark. It's

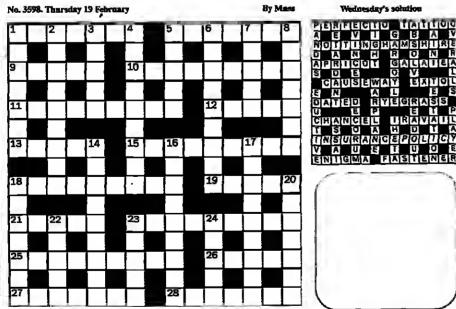
who have let City down this scaunfortunate. I am not baving a go at anyone, I just have to cope seen City two or three times this with these next 15 games."

for 11 months, and said: "I've had a rest following what happened at Everton, and initially I have enjoyed the rest. It was my first break from football for 30 years, I've been away on holiday, got to know the wife again, but I have started wanting to be back in the game."

method of his departure. "I feel disappointed for myself, my staff and the supporters for Royle has been out of work the way it has happened." he said. His back-room team of Alan Hill, Richard Money and Peter Edwards bave also been sacked. "But the club has done what it sees fit. I don't want to make any excuses. It has been a very difficult season, no two ways about it. It's a massive job for someone but it will take a

Clark was upset by the long long time to get it right." Renewing your home insurance in





ACROSS Concise new clause? About page (7)

5 Brings a Jack into play Wrong to get slued? (5) 10 Pulled out grass choking

poor tater (9)
11 The complex has room for 28 research? Your hint

worked (9) 12 Eastern dialect, backward

13 Direct for stage (5) 15 Living without spirit, need 2 ing new birth (9) 18 Tyres feel insecure, with

nlimited racing activities 3 19 Arrogant urge to restrict Union (5)
21 Form of life some caterpil-

lar validates (5)

23 Without a light finds field and diamond chest (5-4)
25 The basis for a trade gap?

(9) 26 Started, took off, about 27 Mass's after Sunday roast (7) Bone in back near middle

DOWN Bulldozes edge in flower (7) It'll show depth of pride

concealing endless pre-tence (5-4) Inferior to European articles (5) One on a charge? (6-3) Lock about to be inserted

in part of wooden frame-

34

First of flock on sheep-run prepared for wash (7.2) Was observer smooth? (5) Quietly going on, expanding (7)
Proof emerging from te-dious point in trial (9)

16 Regards e.g. resting as imless (9) 17 Deity enshrined in one (reportedly Oriental) re-

mote state (9) 18 Issues absorbing the Spanish dons (7) Rank that's outstanding, reinforced by King with title (7)
22 Fish like a perch — coarse

as the saying has it (5) 23 Bill has no time for the puzzle (5) Bears note with urgency

the men's 10,000 metres, are not getting fitting floral tributes. flower executives grumble. The gold medallist Gianni Romme. silver medallist Bob de Jong and bronze winner Rintje Riisma was given a small hunch of red. pink and yellow flowers bound with a pink ribbon.

sparked wild celebrations across the Netherlands, the choice of bunch of flowers." flowers prompted some pouting in the land of the tulip. "Those bouquets are poor. It's as simple as that," Warren

Though their victories

de Vroe, of the International Flower Bulb Centre, said yes-"I was very happy that they

were there, all three of them. but it would have been an even nicer picture if they had had proper Dutch bouquets." De Vroe added.

De Vroe's organisation. which represents hundreds of Dutch flower growers and exporters, had offered to provide bouquets to all medallists for free. Japanese officials organising the Games politely refused. "Probably to protect their own flower industry." De Vroe

said with a sigh. Dutch growers even developed a yellow and white "Nagano" tulip for the Games, hut so far it has only been seen inside Holland House, a centre

the Winter Olympics. The Dutch are not used to floral snubs; last year, their exports of cut flowers totalled 5.3 hillion guilders (£1.63bn).

for Dutch athletes and media at

The heart of the matter, De Vroc conceded, might be a clash of Western and Eastern tastes. "The problem is that what they are doing, for Japanesc standards, is out of this world," he said. "But the rest of the publication of a few words, the world sees a nasty little

to members of the Dutch committee, Wouter Huibregtsen who wanted an IOC posting be replaced by the Dutch himself - denied using pejorative terms to describe the sports-

Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, Willem-Alexander appears to have been untroubled by the remarks. He beamed on Tuesday as he hung gold, silver and bronze medals on Dutch speed skaters Gianni Romme, Bob de Jong and Rintje Ritsma for their medal sweep in the

are mixed - I saw them win at

Forest when they were excellent.

But I have seen them on days

good. That sums them up: they

are underachievers, they have

been inconsistent. More con-

sistently bad than consistently

anyone who has been here. I

"That's not having a go at

10,000m men's race. The respected Dutch daily De Volkskrant had quoted Huibregtsen last week as harshly criticising Willem-Alexander, who is also a member of the Dutch committee, during a telephone interview with one of its reporters.

In yesterday's letter to his colleagues, faxed to journalists by the Dutch Olympic Committee. Huibregtsen claimed that De Volkskrant "paraphrased my input and sometimes totally invented" comments.

Huibregtsen added that he was considering legal steps against the newspaper. The chief editor of De Volkskrant has said the newspaper stands by its report, though its ombudsman wrote in a commentary that "in an unguarded moment through the newspaper went too far."

Huibregtsen, who reported-In the IOC spat, in a letter ly was incensed by Willem-Alexander's decision to accept an invitation to join the IOC, will Olympic Committee vice-chairman, Jan Loorbach, until a new loving beir to the Dutch throne. chairman can be officially elect-In public appearances at the ed at a meeting on 12 May.

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